





HOME NEWS

# Cardinal is saddened by black thugs' violence

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs  
Correspondent

Cardinal Hume, whose visit to the Notting Hill Carnival on Monday night became known as "the trouble in 1976" because he was recognized by a reporter, has developed a discreet interest in race relations since last year's carnival also ended in violence. Soon after the trouble in 1976 he visited the district and called in Roman Catholic priests from Notting Hill to discuss the matter.

The culmination of his year's study of Notting Hill was an exuberant Caribbean Mass in Westminster Cathedral last Saturday evening, over which he presided. A black priest from Trinidad, who had flown over for the occasion, celebrated the Mass.

Singing and dancing during the service split over into the cathedral piazza in Victoria Street afterwards, and the event was one of the most remarkable ever to be seen on church premises in Britain.

The cardinal, who insists that he is no expert on race relations and that he is not qualified to give a public lead in the matter, has supported projects in aid of black unemployed youths with his personal funds. He has made many friends among West Indians in London.

He paid three visits to Notting Hill over the weekend, the last of which was when trouble was expected on Monday night. The police were officially unaware of his presence, and for much of the time he was unaccompanied, dressed in an ordinary clerical suit. A fellow priest remarked afterwards that as a former rugby forward and well over six feet tall he was not an obvious target for trouble-makers.

Yesterday he said the violence had made him terribly sad. "I arrived in the middle of the thing. I am quite sure that the carnival and the rioting were not connected as cause and effect. The spirit of the thing in the afternoon had been so good, and the police had been so good. Extraneous elements came in for motives that had nothing to do with the carnival."

He praised the police and the carnival stewards for their attitude during the day. He had been present, watching from the side, during some of the worst violence on Monday night and at one point was in the line of fire of missile-throwing black youths. He talked to several groups of youths and individuals, who were present during the fighting, and left at about the time it quieted down.

# Tension that gripped a carnival crowd

Stewart Tendler, in a look back at the Notting Hill Carnival, describes how the tension that gripped the police for the second year in succession.

All Sunday afternoon groups of black youths strolled up Portobello Road to congregate under the Westway motorway on open ground leading up to Acklam Road. Once there, they stood with no apparent purpose other than to listen to a recording system.

Just after 7 pm the first signs of trouble began when a crowd of some hundreds cascaded down from the open space shouting that the police were after them. They turned eastwards into the side streets towards All Saints Road with their discernible purpose, and slowed down.

But as they ran, two white men were seen to have been attacked. The older man, in his forties, staggered away with his clothes torn. His companion, in his twenties, shouted after the crowd: "Why us? Why us?" The crowd split into smaller groups and continued to roam. They were followed by senior police officers, but no large police contingents, and as one officer passed he was heard to complain: "There is no effective action we can take." In All Saints Road plate-glass windows at several restaurants had been smashed.

The youths drifted back into Portobello Road. There, a group of ten of fifteen were seen to surround a white man. Backed against a shop front he appeared to be smiling, but then a wooden stick was put across his throat and he disappeared under the press of bodies.

As it grew dark a police cordon appeared across Portobello Road where it is bisected by Acklam Road, and the crowd below on the gentle gradient leading under the motorway. Carnival stewards went into the crowd and began to bring out whites singly and in groups. In the side streets further down they warned others not to go any farther.

A young man, almost hysterical, harnessed the police, urging them to go back with him and rescue his girl friend. A special patrol group was called out.

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by radio but the officers remained straddling the road. Some people had their pockets picked, but there also seemed to be a racial undercurrent in the attacks. One youth screamed: "I'm going to kill you, whitey", and spat. Youths came over to question reporters about what they were going to write. One of them hit a reporter in the eye. A youth had to be restrained by stewards from attacking other journalists.

Many people stayed in the area, drawn by the excitement and activity. The stewards, including leading members of black radical political groups, pleaded with the youths, dragging out troublemakers when they could find them. Several times, as they rushed the protesting youths through the police line, friends of the youngsters followed.

It was on one such occasion that a fierce argument broke out between stewards and youths just in front of the police line. The next moment a bottle flew out of the crowd and smashed at the feet of the policemen.

Groups of youths continued to pass the said police line. One inspector told his men: "There are not enough of them to take us on yet." As he and his men watched, a police constable tried to drive up Portobello Road, but got stuck under the motorway. Cans were thrown as it began to back out. This time the officer in charge said: "They are going to turn nasty. The bricks will come this way."

But the prediction proved hasty because at 10 pm the music was switched off and the crowd obeyed a call by loud-hallers to go home. On Monday it was clear that many had come back. The police presence was stronger, with constables now on duty in Portobello Road and a strong contingent on the corners of Portobello Road and Acklam Road. Police coaches were parked all along the streets off Ladbroke Grove.

Again the open space under the motorway gradually filled up, although this time there was only music in Acklam Road to draw the crowds. The police waited. There was a disturbance against the wall under the railway line running parallel with the motorway. Everyone stood on tiptoe to see what was going on and then a young black man struggled out of the crowd and told a police sergeant: "A white has been killed; I think he's dead."

Stewards carried the man out and he was shortly followed by a second, also injured. Again the crowd eddied. In an attempt to stop hysteria from building up a policeman stopped a boy and told him: "If you start running I will arrest you."



Police officers at Notting Hill displaying the many items, including an air pistol, a sheath-knife and a hammer, as well as mallets and handbags, found in the streets after the West Indian Carnival.

Just after 8 pm two observers from the West Indian Standing Conference approached a chief superintendent. One said: "The tension is building up. We have been trying for an hour to get the music in Acklam Road turned off so that they will go away."

The police officer told them: "We cannot find any stewards. They have taken off the T-shirts they were wearing to identify themselves or turned them inside out."

At that moment one of the former stewards was passing and the group stopped him. He said it would be wrong to turn off the music because the group listening to it would then join the crowd on the open space. By then the stewards themselves were being attacked.

Shortly afterwards the police began to clear the street behind them. Nearly 20 coachloads were parked in side streets waiting to act. A band of dancers appeared and tension dropped again.

Twenty minutes later stones began to fly at the police line. Coaches sped up and officers drew plastic riot shields from them.

Many youths ran along a footpath to emerge in Ladbroke Grove, where more officers were disembarking. On the corner of Ladbroke Grove and

# 12 Notting Hill defendants get bail

Twelve men arrested at Notting Hill, London, during the weekend were granted bail totalling £800 at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday.

When Mr Roderick Romane, the magistrate, remanded them to various dates. Bentley Applewhite, aged 17, a painter of Fieldway, New Addington, Surrey, is charged with robbing an unknown person of cash together with others in Ladbroke Road, Notting Hill, on Monday.

Charged with using threatening behaviour were Fitzgerald Willoughby, aged 18, a machine minder of Hampton Road, Hornsey, and Colin Kawaii, who refused bail. Arvel Ford, aged 18, a storeman of Finnis Street, Bethnal Green, was charged with using insulting words and having a knife as an offensive weapon. Andrew Fitzpatrick, aged 18, a sales assistant of Kingsway House, Hackney, was charged with being armed with half a housebrick with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to a policeman.

Oswald Bridgeman, aged 22, a painter of Peppys Estate, Weymouth, was charged with wounding Police Sergeant Maryn Home in Acklam Road and assaulting Police Constable Christopher Jones. Paul Lucas, aged 18, unemployed of Monrovia Road, Harrow, was charged with assaulting Police Constable Jones. He was also having a brick with intent to injure an officer.

Junior Whyte, aged 18, an apprentice engineer of Blackstone Road, Walthamstow, was charged with using insulting words and having a knife as an offensive weapon. A pair of scissors respectively. Charged with having weapons with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to a policeman were Arovide Peters, aged 18, a labourer of Bridgewater Road, Alford, and James Jones, aged 25, a labourer of Richmond Road, Hackney, and Anthony Peters, aged 22, unemployed of Bourne Terrace, Farringham, all London. London, 11 boys arrested at Notting Hill, were remanded in care until next Monday.

Committee, appeared out of a mêlée to describe how he had been attacked. Earlier, loudhailers had been used to tell the crowd to go home if they wanted another carnival next year, but that had little effect.

As the fighting died down people began to make their way home. Many black people told the police that they did not condone the actions of the troublemakers. In Portobello Road a line of police officers stood along the pavement on each side of the road as the burglar alarm rang on a smashed clothing shop.

Leading article, page 13

# Control on works car parking planned

By Michael Baily  
Transport Correspondent

Thousands of car commuters who park in their companies' premises will be affected by new powers being prepared by the Department of Transport. They will be able to go on using office or factory parks only if their local authority agrees and issues them with a permit, for an appropriate fee.

How much the permits will cost and how many will be allowed for each company and each urban area will be for the local authority to decide. The cost will at least have to cover staff to administer the scheme and issue permits as well as inspectors to visit premises and ensure compliance.

Control of private commercial parking has been talked about for years but governments have fought shy of it for fear of infringing rights and of administrative complications. But with road improvements being speeded up, the Department of Transport to local authorities and motoring organizations discloses that of two possible methods of control, an annual tax on companies for each parking space, or pre-purchased permits displayed by each vehicle, the Government has chosen the latter.

The paper suggests that permits should be issued free to certain categories of user: commercial vehicles genuinely associated with the business; disabled persons' vehicles; essential operation vehicles; and those used by workers outside normal public transport hours. The rest would have to pay. Enforcement would be by duly authorized local authority officers.

White Paper on transport policy conceded that that additional weapon against urban traffic was now becoming inevitable, and promised legislation. A new consultation paper sent out by the Department of Transport to local authorities and motoring organizations discloses that of two possible methods of control, an annual tax on companies for each parking space, or pre-purchased permits displayed by each vehicle, the Government has chosen the latter.

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# Gain in understanding for local blacks

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Scotland Yard sought information on the policing of West Indian carnivals from New York and Trinidad, but in the end its officers accompanying each of the carnival processions. As the participants danced and played their way through Notting Hill the pins were moved to mark the progress of the procession.

The police use of radios helped to avoid the mix-up of processions that might have arisen from so unbridled spontaneity. Apart from a couple of officers with each procession, hardly a policeman was to be seen on the routes, in marked contrast with last year.

Most of the crime and violence occurred away from the carnival route, under the Westway motorway. Though the police were present in markedly greater numbers on Monday than the day before that was in keeping with Scotland Yard's intention that "the pattern of events on the streets" would determine the profile of policing.

Officers stood at hand near by but did not go in to tackle obvious thuggery as they might have done under less restrained leadership. It has been said that they have provoked a riot.

Stewards did their best to contain the trouble, but police policy would not allow them

backing of the community. To that end the police set out to achieve a partnership with the carnival organisers.

Policemen sat in a stewards' office. There was a map on the wall with pins representing officers accompanying each of the carnival processions. As the participants danced and played their way through Notting Hill the pins were moved to mark the progress of the procession.

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# Hartston leads in London chess contest

By Harry Golombek  
Chess Correspondent

The British international master, Hartston, is in the lead in the Lloyds Bank National Invitation Chess tournament at the Piccadilly Hotel, London. He has 51 points, and one adjourned game against Birnbaum, which looks likely to end in a draw.

Frankie Nunn and Quinteros all have 51 points and are followed by Birnbaum 5, and one adjourned. Belkin and Webb 5, and Basmann 4½ are also in the lead.

In yesterday's seventh round game between Franklin and Hartston the position was level for some time but Franklin's narrow escape from a 51-point position transposed into an endgame that Hartston won fairly easily. Neither of the foreign grandmasters, Quinteros and Torre, could do more than draw.

Torre is half a point below Julian Hodgson, aged 14, who won results of round 7. Birnbaum's, Quinteros', and Torre's results were: Birnbaum 5, Quinteros 5, Torre 5, and Basmann 4½.

Adjoining games results, round 8: Birnbaum 5, Quinteros 5, Torre 5, and Basmann 4½.

Adjoining games results, round 9: Birnbaum 5, Quinteros 5, Torre 5, and Basmann 4½.

Adjoining games results, round 10: Birnbaum 5, Quinteros 5, Torre 5, and Basmann 4½.

Adjoining games results, round 11: Birnbaum 5, Quinteros 5, Torre 5, and Basmann 4½.

Adjoining games results, round 12: Birnbaum 5, Quinteros 5, Torre 5, and Basmann 4½.

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# Organizers of carnival attack council

Continued from page 1

on Monday there had been 390 stewards working and some had been present in Acklam Road to help the other group.

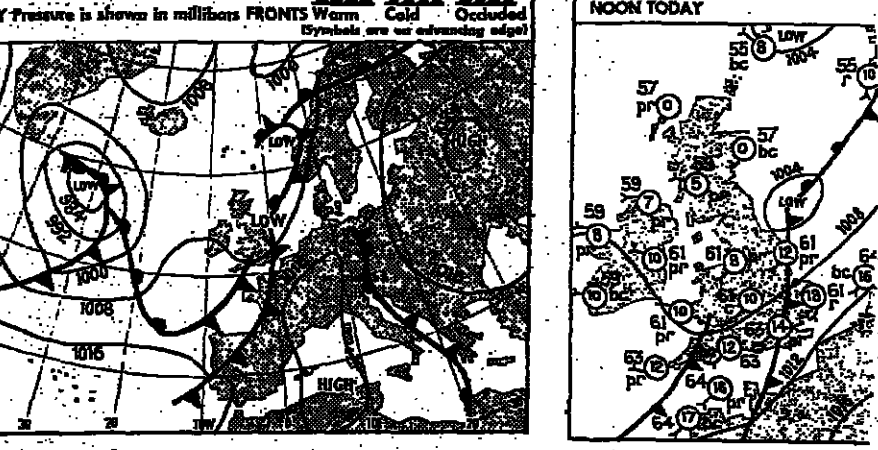
Mr Louis Chase, chairman of the carnival of arts group, praised the stewards, who took many personal risks, and the police restraint.

He accused the local council on impeding the success of the carnival.

Councillor Michael Cox, chairman of Kensington and Chelsea community relations committee, said the council had attempted to close Acklam Road and had given warning of the danger.

He wondered if the carnival had grown too big to be safe in the streets of Notting Hill and suggested one organization in charge rather than two.

# Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Sun rises	Sun sets
	6.11 am	7.50 pm
	9.13 am	8.47 pm
Moons rises	9.13 am	8.47 pm
Moons sets	9.13 am	8.47 pm

Forecast for 6 am to midnight:	
London: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Edinburgh: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Belfast: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Cardiff: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Manchester: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Sheffield: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Nottingham: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Leeds: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Birmingham: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Coventry: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Warwick: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Gloucester: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Bristol: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Exeter: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Plymouth: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
London: Partly cloudy, showers, sun; max temp 15°C (59°F).	

Yesterday	London: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Edinburgh: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Belfast: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Cardiff: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Manchester: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Sheffield: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Nottingham: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Leeds: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Birmingham: Temp: max 7, min 2	
	Coventry: Temp: max 7, min 2	
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12 Notting  
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HOME NEWS

# Inflation demand will greet the Prime Minister in Scotland

By Ronald Faux  
The Prime Minister arrives in Scotland today to appeal for restraint. He will be met by a demand for a new party workers and a unionist in Scotland for a reflation of the economy. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party and the Scottish Labour Party have both expressed their opposition to the Government's approach to the economy. The Government must approach the International Labour Fund to negotiate a loan of the British economy. The party official said yesterday much of the constraint placed on the economy based on Britain's letter of intent to the IMF. At the time, it was widely believed that could be renegotiated to improve the economy. This improvement has happened and it is time we eased the situation, the official said. The severely depressed part of the economy is underuse of manpower. could destroy the fabric of the nation, not to mention the party's vote here. The highest in the party's list for Mr Callaghan. The party council believes the nation programme should be accepted as a permanent

# Highlands development 'is failing to halt decline'

Our Own Correspondent  
The export earnings of such Highland beams as cattle, kelp, sheep, herring, and oil are not reinvested in the region in terms of productive assets or alternative industry, it said. The overriding consideration is the short-term exploitation of Highland resources for profit. It continues. As there is little or no regional control over capital and decision-making, there is no pressure to diversify the Highland economy. Depopulation, low living standards, limited job opportunities, unemployment and despair still characterize many communities. Separation "threat": The sluggish state of business confidence and investment in Scotland arises from the uncertainty created by the threat of separation, Mr Edward Taylor, shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, said at Biggar, Strathclyde, yesterday (the Press Association reports). Despite the bonus of oil jobs, Scotland's unemployment has worsened more sharply than the rest of Britain over the past few months and job vacancies are drying up, Mr Taylor said. "There is no greater enemy of prosperity than uncertainty."

# Expansion of teletext planned

By Gareth Gosling  
Between two thousand and three thousand people are able to receive the teletext information services provided by the teletext system and computer television's Oracle. Manufacturers expect a 50,000 more sets ready by 1979, with a pending lowering of

# Actor's suit over musical

Terrance Ruggie, aged 24, brought from the United States to London to star in the West End musical Dean, which is based on the life of James Dean, the actor, is claiming High Court damages over being dropped from the role.

# Pay talks halt opera rehearsal

The first orchestra rehearsal for Covent Garden's new opera season was cancelled yesterday to allow a joint meeting of both London's opera orchestras about their pay claims.

# Dead children named

Two brothers drowned on Monday after being cut off by the tide at Cleethorpes, Humberside, were named yesterday as Sean Drewett, aged nine, and Adam Drewett, aged six, of Coombe Street, Cleethorpes.

# Helicopter force-lands

JetRanger helicopter with three people on board made a forced landing on waste ground in Nine Elms Road, Battersea, London, yesterday. No one was hurt.

# £15,000 fish loss

Vandals have killed 50,000 fish, worth £15,000 by opening a sluice gate and draining water at a trout farm, Avon Fisheries, Ringwood, Hampshire, the police said yesterday.

# English lessons at 87

Herr Otto Gartner, aged 87, from Nuremberg, has arrived at Deal, Kent, to study English. He speaks seven languages and says it will take him a month to learn English.

# Law group's proposal for aggrieved clients

By Our Legal Correspondent  
A judge should be asked to review cases where a client believes that his solicitor has been negligent in dealing with his affairs, but legal opinion says otherwise. The suggestion is made by the Young Solicitors' Group of the Law Society in evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services. The group represents solicitors under 35 years of age. It refers to public dissatisfaction which results from the fact that a client who believes he has a claim for negligence against a solicitor would not readily accept advice from another lawyer that such a claim could not be substantiated. In such circumstances, the group proposes, the client ought to be entitled to ask for a private appointment with the local circuit judge. The client and the lawyer who had advised him that he had no claim would be interviewed by the judge, who would give his opinion. Although that opinion could not be binding, it was to the effect that the client had a prima facie case of negligence, he would, if financially eligible, be granted legal aid to pursue it.

# 26 hurt on train

Twenty-six people were taken to hospital yesterday, mostly with cuts, after a train had hit the buffers at Cannon Street station, London. No one was seriously hurt.

# Scottish crime crisis 2: Prison sometimes an alternative to poverty Stretch in Barlinnie 'worn as badge of honour'

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Living conditions in poverty-stricken parts of Strathclyde are so awful that prison can seem comfortable in comparison and loses some of its value as a deterrent. "You are taken away from the wife and squalling kids, given three meals a day, a bath and a haircut," Sergeant Joseph Black, general secretary of the Scottish Police Federation, said. "I have met men who have never had a bath in their lives, or at least not since the one given them by the midwife." Putting petty things in prison can give them another sign of status to go with a scar from a gang battle or the kudos of a successful punch-up with a chucker-out at a dance hall. "Some people wear as a badge of honour the fact that they have been to Barlinnie prison," Sergeant Black says. He thinks that suitable work for the community might be a more appropriate penalty. So far the Government is making community service orders available only experimentally in four Scottish regions. Strathclyde is one of them.

procedure and treatment of offenders.

The Government is also considering how it can reduce the availability of prison to courts as a penalty for some of the lesser common law offences, such as a breach of the peace, for which many persistent drunken offenders are given a taste of custody.

That raises the question of what could replace imprisonment in such cases, given that no detoxification centres are to be built yet and that so many people who are fined end up in custody for non-payment.

A report of what was said to be Britain's first experimental detoxification unit, based in Edinburgh, showed that during 12 months it saved 47 people an expected 180 court appearances, 87 receptions into prison, and 1,112 days in prison for all offences.

The report, in Health Bulletin, suggests that a change from penal to medical management of drunkenness need not be more expensive. But the new approach would require social work support, including the provision of hostels.

Out of 10,674 persons received into custody in 1975 to serve sentences, 8,639 were fine defaulters.

The Scottish Council on Crime says that a fine is used in four cases out of five. Recognition rates suggest that if the amount to be paid is significant fines are "effective penalties, at least, in comparison with the others available to the criminal courts".

Many received into custody are those remanded there. In 1975 they totalled 17,324, a rise

of 2.9 per cent over the previous year.

They help to burden the prison service at one end of the process. At the other end fewer prisoners considered for parole get it than in England and Wales: in 1976 about a third compared with a half. More light will be thrown on the use of parole by the full results, still to come, of studies done by Professor F. H. McClintock and colleagues at Edinburgh University's School of Criminology and Forensic Studies.

One of the obstacles to the increased use of alternatives is a shortage of social workers where they are most needed. Strathclyde regional social work department already supervises about a thousand more offenders than are contained in the entire Scottish prison system, according to Mr P. E. Edwards, the region's director of social work. The figures do not include juveniles.

Mr Edwards responds tartly to criticisms of his staff. He is on record as saying: "What is... very difficult to take is the position adopted by the judiciary, the carping criticism of the High Court judges of the social workers who have manfully been struggling with this enormous task of delivering social work services against a manpower situation which, compared with the rest of the United Kingdom, is staggeringly inadequate."

He says that for every 11 social workers in Strathclyde, for example, there are 37 social workers or probation officers in Liverpool.

As part of the drive, now gathering momentum, to tackle urban decay, poverty and misery in Strathclyde, the establishment of basic-grade social workers is to be trebled over the next three years.

Mr Edwards said: "Notwithstanding the fact that national governments have been exercising ideas about positive discrimination in various parts of the United Kingdom, there has been a failure of those policies. What makes it exciting here is that the council is pursuing it."

Positive discrimination is the aim of a plan launched a year ago by Mr Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, for the comprehensive rehabilitation of part of the city. It includes the building of new homes, modernization of present ones, new roads, industrial and commercial development, supporting social and educational services, and adequate open space for recreation.

The Glasgow eastern area renewal scheme, estimated to cost £120m, includes 40 advance factory units. The aim is to build up community life with public involvement in decisions, drawing on lessons learnt elsewhere of how alienation can lead to vandalism and crime.

Pessimists say nothing can stop urban decline once it has reached the level of parts of Glasgow. Others are bickering about details.

But the new-found enthusiasm of people who have been waiting a lifetime for an opportunity to tackle deep-seated ills may yet surprise the world.

Concluded

# Paedophilia advocate given extra leave

Mr Thomas O'Carroll, chairman of Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE), which seeks to legalize adult sexual relations with children, has taken two weeks' extended holiday from his post at the Open University.

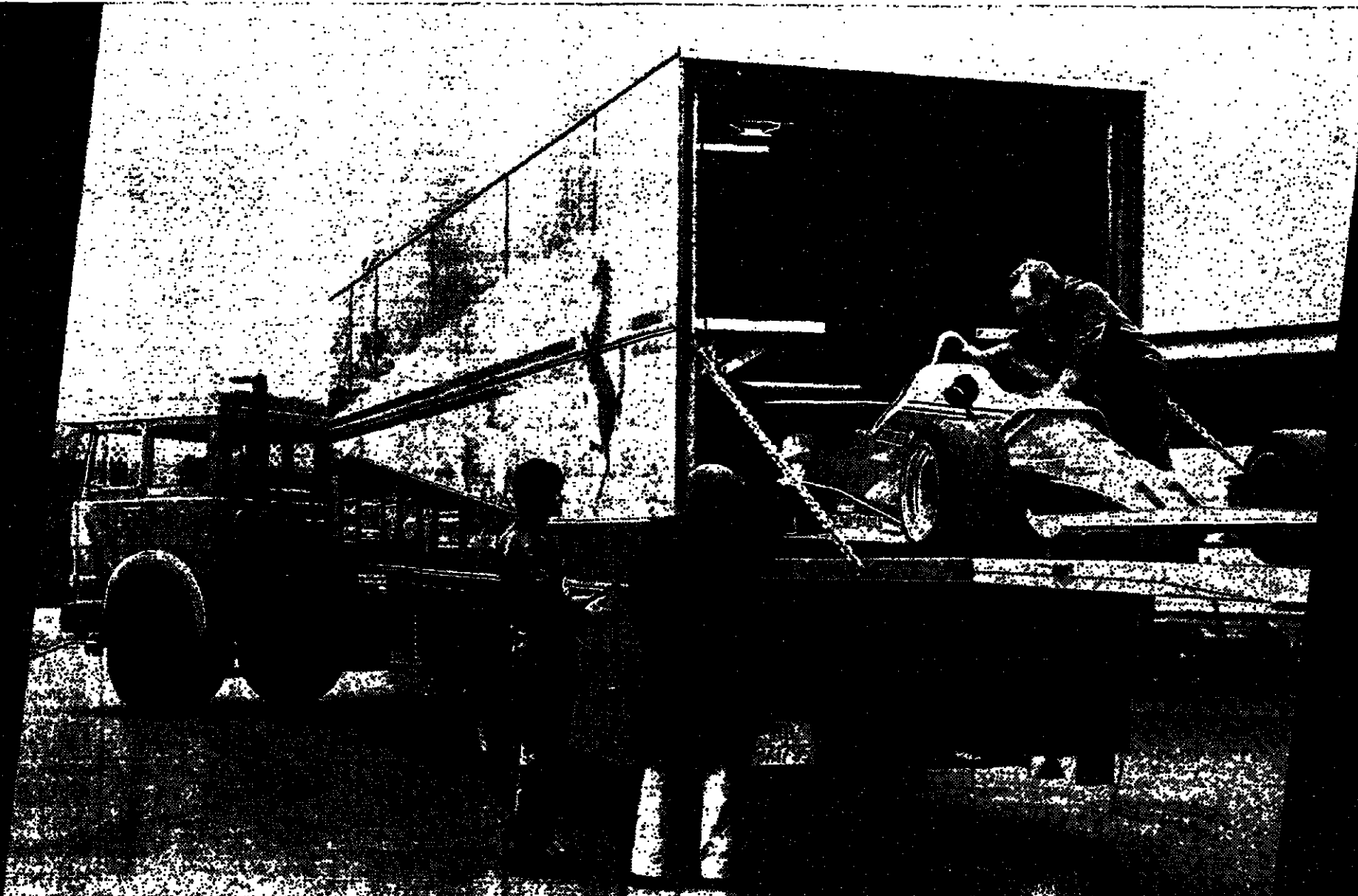
Mr O'Carroll, who is 32, was to have resumed his work as press officer yesterday. The decision to take leave came after talks last weekend with Mr John Greenall, director of the university's information services.

The group plans a seminar at an undisclosed venue on Thursday to discuss its aims. An earlier conference was banned from the Shaftesbury Hotel, London, when the group's purpose was discovered.

"The Open University wishes to make clear that it disassociates itself from PIE and its objectives," Mr Greenall said. "What a person did in his own time was not the business of the university."

In a statement, the university said it discussed the recent reports about the group with Mr O'Carroll during the weekend. It was made clear to him that although the university recognized the right of its staff to express private views in public it did not support his views on paedophilia and must not be associated with them.

Mr O'Carroll said he regretted that the university's name had been brought into the issue and that the publicity had embarrassed its members who objected to his views, the statement said.



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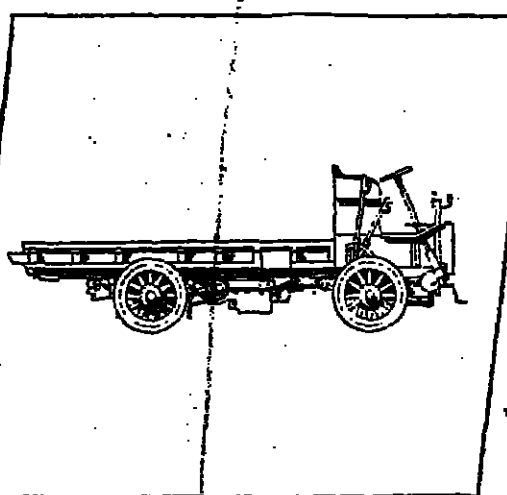
Since the first Fiat truck was built in 1904 (the 24 HP below), Fiat has grown into an international group producing hundreds of special purpose vehicles of which the Fiat 170 is only one example.

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HOME NEWS

# Ministry reviews way secret papers are prepared for release

By Peter Hennessy

The Ministry of Defence has begun a review of the way classified papers are written, filed, preserved or "weeded", and prepared for eventual public release under the 30-year rule established by the Public Record Act, 1967.

The investigation, ordered by Sir Frank Cooper, permanent secretary to the ministry, reflects concern in Whitehall and among historians that valuable material may have been destroyed during "weeding". Under rules laid down by the Government in 1954, files are "weeded" once they cease to be in current use and again after 25 years, before they are burnt or sent to the Public Record Office.

The Ministry of Defence is the largest creator of paper in Whitehall. It needs more than a hundred miles of shelving for the documents being held to await possible release. About thirty "weeder" sift the material and decide what should be retained and what destroyed. They work in the kitchens of the former hotel in Northumberland Avenue, near the ministry's headquarters.

To discover what is happening to paper between the moment of compilation and the point of destruction or disclosure, sample tests are being undertaken by a review team. They have paid special attention to the flow of documents in ministerial private offices.

The inquiry will reopen the question of who should be responsible for "weeding" and the kind of people recruited as "weeder". Ministry of Defence "weeder" are mainly retired civil servants of senior executive officer rank with long experience of line management. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office recruits former ambassadors. No government department employs trained archivists for the task.

"Weeding" is now the responsibility of the ministry's Office Services (Administration and Records) Branch, an amorphous empire covering data processing, messengers and a host of other activities

as well as departmental record work. The review team will consider several possible arrangements.

The army, naval and air historical branches of the ministry contain skilled archivists and historians among their staff. They will probably become more involved in deciding what should be preserved and how safeguards can be built into the system.

The Air Historical Branch, under Wing Commander E. B. (Teddy) Haslam, has a high reputation among historians and its direct participation would greatly reassure the profession.

An example of its present work is the preparation of an official history of air mobility. It will use details from an unpublished assessment of the Berlin air lift of 1948-49 compiled in 1950 by Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams, who commanded the RAF operation.

The ministry may appoint an outside moderator to inspect its new procedures and advise on improvements. A central coordinating body may also be set up to ensure consistent and harmonious treatment, especially important as the three services each had its own ministry until 1964.

The review team will also examine the effects of changing documentary techniques involved in policy work. Life was relatively simple until the mid-1960s, when the two-sided registered policy file, with minutes on the left and enclosures on the right, ceased to be the standard mechanism. It provided a chronological, comprehensive record for future generations.

The advent of the photocopying machine and a wider, more diffuse pattern for circulating paper greatly hindered the work of the archivist.

The team's work should be completed by the end of September. Its report will be presented to Sir Frank Cooper and Mr Ewen Broadbent, Deputy Secretary (Civilian Management) for decisions on its recommendations.

**TOTALS LISTED**

(a) Total Tonnage lifted by Community

Community	Tonnage	British
Coal	1,212,230	109,000
Oil	200,205	243,712
Mineral Products	61,240	34,220
Waste	27,283	27,283
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500,958</b>	<b>654,215</b>

Total Unlifted Tonnage lifted to British: 2,255,500.

(b) Highest Daily British Tonnage: 2,214.5 - 24th July 1976.

(c) Highest Daily R.A.F. Tonnage: 1,335.6 - 17th August 1976.

(d) Highest Daily British Civil Tonnage: 1,006.6 - 22nd May 1976.

## National Front interview is welcomed

By Ian Bradley

The interview in *The Times* yesterday with Mr John Tyndall, chairman of the National Front, was welcomed by Mr William Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party.

Mr Whitelaw said: "I believe it was right for *The Times* to give Mr Tyndall the chance to state his views. It removes one of the main reasons for the National Front. What he said did not make me any more sympathetic to the views of his organization."

Mr Paul Foot, of the Socialist Workers' Party, said the interview "simply confirms anybody's view that this is classic fascism in a straightforward Nazi mould". He added that the interview established that the National Front and the Socialist Workers' Party were at opposite ends of the political scale; not at the same end, as Mrs Thatcher asserted last weekend.

*The Times* will shortly be publishing an extended interview with Mr Duncan Hallas, chairman of the Socialist Workers' Party.

## Alderney to plan restrictions on immigrants

From Our Correspondent Alderney

Recommendations that preliminary inquiries should be made into the establishment of an Alderney postal service and that proposals should be drawn up for limiting new immigration to people likely to be of service or able to enrich the community were approved by the Alderney States yesterday. It was also agreed to set up a working party to attract financial, commercial and light industry to the island.

Mr John Winkworth, chairman of the finance committee, said Alderney had been drifting for too many years without an economic policy. It was not the intention to break away completely from Guernsey, but it was felt that the island should assume more responsibility for its public services.

It was not intended to limit immigration only to those with vast incomes, but they did want to stop people coming to the island who were a liability

## New Opel may mean Vauxhall version

By John Blunsden

A new range of Opel Rekord cars, comprising two-door and four-door saloons in three levels of trim and equipment, and three-door and five-door estate cars with two levels of equipment is announced today.

Initially to be made in the Adam Opel AG factory in Rüsselsheim, West Germany, the Rekord range will be imported into the United Kingdom with right-hand steering early next year. If General Motors continues its policy of model integration within the Opel and Vauxhall ranges (already seen in the Kadett/Chevette and Manta/Cavalier models) a Vauxhall version of the Rekord, as a replacement for the Victor series, would seem to be a logical development.

A new wedge-shaped body incorporates a longer and more steeply sloping bonnet, an elongated roof line and a shorter but higher rear end.

More new four-cylinder four-cylinder engines has been introduced for the new Rekord: a



The four-door saloon in the new range of Opel Rekord cars.

90bhp economy version to run on regular grade fuel, a 100bhp version for use with 98 octane fuel, and a fuel-injected 110bhp variant using Bosch L-Jetronic carburettor. The saloon's top speed of more than 110mph and a 0-60mph acceleration time of 12 seconds.

Although external dimensions are similar to those of the previous Rekord models, leg and shoulder room has been improved, the saloon has a fifth more luggage space and the load area of the estate car has been increased by a third.

The Rekord will continue to be offered with a 2.1 litre diesel engine, and the well known 1.7 litre and 1.9 litre petrol engines will also be available for economy-minded motorists.

A new range of two-door and four-door coupés will not be announced until the cars are available next year.

## Miners seek retirement of sponsored MPs at 65

From Our Northern Industrial Correspondent Barnsley

The Yorkshire area council of the Yorkshire Miners' Association yesterday passed a resolution calling for the retirement at 65 of all MPs sponsored by mining unions.

It demands withdrawal of union sponsorship from MPs who refuse to retire at that age.

Three Labour MPs in the Yorkshire area who might be affected are Mr Edwin Wainwright, Don Valley (July, 1981) and Mr Albert Roberts, Northampton (May, 1981).

Union sponsorship for candidates means substantial assistance with election expenses and parliamentary expenses as well as securing a substantial vote of miners.

In the past, mining nomination in the coalfield areas was almost a guarantee of success but in recent years, with the considerable drop in manpower at pits, NUM representation of constituency Labour parties who choose the candidate has

fallen considerably, as has the proportion of the electorate who are miners.

Another resolution calls on full-time NUM officers to resign on accepting directorships of other commercial business interests outside the NUM or the Labour movement.

The resolution arose out of reports that Mr Joseph Gormley, the union's national president, had accepted a position with a shipping subsidiary of an oil company.

Mr Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire area president, said that if a man was appointed to a local or national office, he should not be able to be affected by commercial business interests directly or indirectly operating against the NUM.

Union officials should be solely concerned with the union and its associated interests.

Mr Gormley replied: "I am not replying today to an matter of my own destiny in my own time" (the Press Association reports).

He said he was not the only NUM official with such a job. "I believe the president at the Yorkshire area council (Mr Scargill) himself has held directorships of outside bodies."

## Man lost job after keeping quiet about jail sentence

From Our Correspondent Shrewsbury

Mr Gerald Brown lost his £4,850-a-year job as a branch manager of a caravan company when his employers confronted him with rumours they had heard of his serving a nine-month prison term. He had kept quiet about the sentence when he applied for the job.

Mr Brown, aged 56, of Tattenhall, Cheshire, told an industrial tribunal at Shrewsbury: "I had applied for 300 jobs since I was discharged from prison and I did not see any point in deliberately sticking my neck out." The tribunal dismissed his claim of unfair dismissal.

He refused a demand to state when the truth about his past came out, and was then dismissed with a month's pay in lieu of notice by W.D. Harrington and Co. of Delamere, near Northwich, Cheshire.

Mr Brown said he and the chairman of a Manchester garage group, to whom he was seconded, had been convicted of conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

## Optimism among army commanders in Northern Ireland Terrorism in south Armagh falls

From Christopher Walker Belfast

Eighteen months after south Armagh was declared an emergency zone by the British Government, terrorism in the rugged border area has been cut to a level that compares favourably with some other parts of Northern Ireland.

Official figures released by *The Times* by 30th January, Brigadier showed a marked decrease in violence of all types in the notorious district once dubbed as "bandit country" by Mr Rees, the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The statistics compare the first seven months of 1976 with the same period of 1977. The number of civilian deaths in south Armagh dropped from 15 to two, the number of British Army deaths from six to two, and the number of soldiers injured from 17 to nine. Bomb attacks fell from 23 to 13, and the number of shooting incidents from 94 to 63.

The total of explosives recovered, 3,070lb, dropped this year to 200lb and the number of rounds of ammunition from 1,857 rounds to 53.

Army commanders responsible for the area attribute much of the recent change in atmosphere to the controversial presence of The Special Air Service Regiment, first brought in January, 1976, after the sectarian killings near the border.

About 150 SAS men are serving in Ulster, each on a four-month tour. Although their brief has been extended to cover the whole of the province, much of their undercover work still takes place in the wild terrain of south Armagh.

Senior officers regard last week's murder of Mr William Martin in the border village of Crossmaglen as further evidence that local Provisional IRA leaders are increasingly worried about improving army intelligence.

Mr Martin, aged 60, was seized from his house by four masked men and shot through the back of the head by the IRA which said he was an "informant". That is denied by army sources, who believe that recent arrests have caused concern among republican extremists in an area formerly regarded as "safe".

Last month the Provisional IRA's second battalion in Crossmaglen circulated a leaflet at intimidating local people from having any contact with the security forces. Part of it stated: "despite a number of previous warnings about the danger of IRA activity, the IRA's second battalion in Crossmaglen, where even the rubbish from the beleaguered local army base is carried out by helicopter."

But allowing for the potential still undeniably possessed by the Provisional IRA a new mood of cautious optimism is founded among army commanders. The next few months will indicate whether this optimism is fully justified.

## Soldier hurt in Belfast shooting incident

A soldier was injured in a shooting incident in west Belfast yesterday. He was believed to have been hit by a rocket and was taken to hospital but was not thought to be seriously hurt. He is a member of 3 Light Infantry.

He was part of a mobile patrol at which a gunman fired two shots. No fire was returned. The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the shooting.

In Coleraine two London-derry men were remanded in custody until next Tuesday at a special court on charges connected with Friday's shooting of a soldier. They were James Christopher O'Hagan, aged 18, of Foyle Road, and Michael

## Safety poster an insult, Hindus say

By Peter Godfrey

A factory poster designed by the British Safety Council has been condemned as insulting and damaging to race relations by Asian leaders in Britain. The council has refused to withdraw it.

The poster, to be sent next month to 24,000 companies employing about 10 million people, depicts Kali, the Hindu goddess, as a black woman wearing a necklace of skulls and holding a severed head in her right hand. The caption reads: "How much does Kali cost you?"

The poster is intended to draw attention to the expense and damage caused by industrial accidents, which, the council estimates, cost British industry £500 a minute.

The use of Kali, the goddess of destruction, was the idea of Mr James Tye, director general of the safety council. "I spent several years in India, and as I understand it Kali is associated with wild destruction and with raising a pandemonium," he said.

Hindu leaders have complained that the poster seriously misrepresents and abuses their religion in a manner equivalent to presenting Christ as a mythological figure.

The council's poster is an offensive and unjustified advertising gimmick," Mr Patel, secretary of Committee on United Kingdom Citizenship and a prominent Hindu, said. "It is based on a superficial view of Hindu religion. Worship of the goddess Kali is a living religion in India and among Hindus in Britain."

Mr Patel, who is considering legal action against the council, thought the poster arrogant and conducive to racial disharmony.

Mr Jasbir Patel, leader of the 50,000-strong Gujarati community in Britain, said the poster consisted of "insulting, cheap publicity" and demanded its withdrawal.

Although the Asian community acknowledges the goddess Kali symbolizes some elements of destruction, it is largely the destruction of ignorance and demons with which she is concerned. She is also a revered deity of sustenance, creativity and transformation of the universe.

## Families refuse to return to tower block after fire

From Our Own Correspondent Glasgow

Twenty-nine families moved out of the Red Road block of flats in Balornock, Glasgow, after a fire on Monday in which two firemen were injured, are refusing to return.

Vandals have been blamed for the fire, which started in an empty flat.

Removal men have refused to carry out furniture belonging to the families until lifts in the 31-storey block, damaged in the fire, are working again.

Glasgow housing department is giving priority to rehousing of the displaced families. Council officials were told yesterday that they refused to return to the flats.

Next month the housing authority will consider a scheme to make the flats available to Glasgow University students, as the Glasgow City Council is planning to build a new 22-storey block in the Red Road area which might be included in the offer.

One lesson that Glasgow has learned is that tower-block high-density living is not compatible with raising a family. Another lesson is that the city's annual council bill of between £3m and £4m is on the housing account.

WEST EUROPE

## Austerity economy continues for French

From Ian Murray Paris, Aug 30

Petrol and tobacco prices are set to go up in the French budget for 1978, which is to be presented on September 7. These are the main sources of increased revenue in a firm budget that will keep the spirit of the "Barre plan" to save the economy.

Final details of the budget were discussed at an inner Cabinet meeting yesterday and M Barre, the Prime Minister, has clearly decided that, elections notwithstanding, he will hold fast to the austerity plan he drew up a year ago. There is to be no inflation of the economy.

The official statement after yesterday's meeting said the budget's three aims were to protect the franc, to reestablish the economy, and to support industry. The first two could have been written a year ago but the third shows that the Government is beginning to cause industrial stagnation.

The obvious symptom of the disease is high unemployment and tomorrow there is to be a special Cabinet meeting to discuss this problem and measures to control it. The signs are that tough measures will be taken to eliminate the "false unemployed"—those who find it more rewarding to stay unemployed than to work.

More worrying, however, is the constant shrinking of the number of jobs on offer, a clear sign that industry is not trying to expand, probably because of fears about what may happen if the Union of the Left comes to power in next year's elections.

M Barre has said that he will not allow the elections to impair his economic judgment. The decision to put up the price of petrol next year by about 6 per cent to £1.32 a gallon and to raise an extra £58m from increased road fund duties and tobacco tax is scarcely playing to the electorate.

At the same time the decision to present a budget that will run into the red must largely stem from the desire not to stifle industry further by the higher taxes necessary to meet planned needs in 1978.

M Barre is also aware of the growing clamour from the unions, middle management and, indeed, from M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, for an end to tight wage restraint.

Figures just released by the Ministry of Labour show that the purchasing power of hourly paid workers has not increased at all in the past year, despite an increase of 10.6 per cent in the consumer price index. The July price index having risen by 0.5 per cent, the pressure is on for higher pay in the next round of negotiations, which are about to start.

The middle-management class (cadres) are meanwhile trying to make their voice heard. M Yves Chaperon, the president of the confédération Générale des Cadres, has attacked a proposal by M Edmond Maire, the socialist trade union leader, to limit to 100,000 the number of cadres in the public sector.

M Maire is due to meet M Georges Segny, the Communist trade union leader, tomorrow to discuss tactics for the two biggest unions in the year ahead.



Skateboards at war: a recruit of Switzerland's trend-setting army about to fire a flamethrower in an exercise designed to improve his balance.

## Clashes as Lisbon tries to hand back land

From Jose Shercliff Lisbon, Aug 30

Thirty-one people are reported to have been injured in clashes between the police and agricultural workers in Evora, in the Alentejo province, south of Lisbon.

The incidents began late yesterday afternoon when a section of the Communist Party (PCP) tried to force the return of land to its original owners on the order of the Agriculture Ministry.

The farm workers refused to allow tractors and an escort of Republican Guards to approach the area by leaving across the road to block their passage. In the ensuing clashes 15 people were injured, and a youth was taken to hospital with brain damage.

Later, a hostile crowd of about 200 farm workers and sympathisers gathered outside the Republican Guard headquarters in Evora, and were dispersed by a detachment of the special "intervention squad" of the riot police, who were rushed up by car from Lisbon.

The clashes brought the total of injured to 31. Two arrests were made.

This is the first outburst of serious violence since Senhor Antonio Barreto, the Minister of Agriculture, promised that the new land reform law would be put into effect by all legal means at the Government's disposal. The law was passed last month after a prolonged and bitter debate in the National Assembly.

The Socialists and Social Democrats voted in its favour, while the Communists and the Christian Democrats voted against it. The Communists feared that their hold over the district would be affected by the new reform law.

One of the clauses of the Bill which is most contested by the extreme left is the one which enlarges the areas reserved for medium and small farmers, whose land comes within the Government's scheme to put right the injustices of the 1976 land nationalization. Before the Bill was passed by Parliament, Dr Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist Party's general secretary, stated that its implementation would encounter "extreme difficulties."

## Test case for restraining power of police in Spain

Madrid, Aug 30.—Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Spanish Interior Minister, today promised a full investigation into allegations of police mistreatment of a Socialist deputy, which have caused uproar in Parliament.

He held talks with the president of the Cortes (Parliament), Señor Antonio Hernandez Gil, while indignant Socialist deputies called for his resignation.

The incident is seen as a test case for the Government's efforts to reform the police forces, which have enjoyed free hand during the 40-year Franco dictatorship.

Señor Jaime Blanco, the Socialist deputy involved, said he was beaten and insulted by riot police when he tried to stop them from hitting a youth after a weekend demonstration in the northern town of Santander. He said the police called him a pimp and a son of a whore when he identified himself as a member of Parliament.

The police version was that Señor Blanco had been with a group of demonstrators who insulted the police. He was seized, taken to police headquarters and then to a police station.

Señor Martín Villa told reporters he had sent the Director-General of Security to San Sebastián to investigate. He said, his duty to maintain public order. But if it was proved that the police had committed abuses the Government would take disciplinary action.

In an editorial in the liberal daily *El País*, said that one of the Interior Minister, appointed after General Franco died in 1975 had admitted he had his hand full just trying to control the police.

## Opinion poll jolt for Bonn coalition

From Greta Spitzer Bonn, Aug 30

Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor today presided over the first meeting of the coalition of Social Democrats and Free Democrats after the holiday break. If there were an election tomorrow the coalition would win 48.5 per cent of the vote, according to recent opinion polls.

Last Thursday an opinion poll by Professor Rudolf Wildemann for the business magazine *Capital* said that the coalition would survive by a narrow margin: 50.9 per cent of which 42.1 per cent was for the Social Democrats (SPD) and 8.8 per cent for the Free Democrats (FDP).

On the following day an opinion poll by the *Altenbach Institute* found that 51 per cent would vote for the opposition CDU/CSU (Christian Democrats). It gave the SPD only 39 per cent and the FDP 8 per cent.

More significant, however, was the reaction to a question in Professor Wildemann's poll on the chances in West Germany for a protest party similar to that of Mr Mogens Glistrup in Denmark. It found that 25.1 per cent would vote for such a party; 46.6 per cent would not and the rest could not make up their minds.

While the value of such polls should not be overestimated, it seems a fair reflection of the voters' mood. The image of all parties has suffered in the recent past, and trust in them is declining.

If the coalition still fares relatively well, it is thanks to Herr Schmidt, of those who are seen as the best Chancellor by almost twice as many voters as last year: 8.5 per cent against 4.3 per cent. But the percentage of those who said they did not want him to stay in office has increased to 50 per cent.

This must have a sobering effect on the CDU (Christian Social Union, the Bavarian party) and the Christian Democrats, which after a recent opinion poll in Lower Saxony carried out much to the annoyance of the CDU—saw Herr Strauss' attraction increasing beyond borders.

Disillusion with the established political parties is plain by a variety of factors not only the fact that the coalition has not found a panacea for unemployment and for general economic stagnation.

The SPD has to treat fully vis-à-vis its coalition partner. The FDP has to wean itself from the CDU's subsidies. Results then will show whether the party will survive in future. SPD or CDU. Recent examples of antipathy between Herr Kohl and Herr Strauss are no help in restoring confidence.

## EEC butter for S Africa 'unlikely'

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Aug 30

Allegations by Mr Tom Torney, the Labour MP for Bradford, South, that large amounts of surplus EEC butter, sold cheaply to Yugoslavia, had been reexported to South Africa at normal market prices, were received with puzzlement by European Commission officials here today.

They confirmed that 1,000 tonnes of butter had been exported to Yugoslavia at subsidised prices at the beginning of the year, but they had no record of any other sales.

What the Yugoslavs did with the butter after they had bought it was their affair, the officials said, but they added that South Africa, itself an exporter of dairy produce, seemed an unlikely market for it.

Small quantities of butter are regularly sold by the Commission to non-EEC countries as a means of reducing the surplus, which has doubled since

April and now stands at 417 tonnes. It is particularly at the moment because it is summer is the peak period for production.

Earlier this year, the sale of some 50,000 tonnes of EEC butter to the Soviet Union at about a third of average cost to the Communist consumer, were blocked by Commission after protest from Britain and West Germany were resumed counter-protests from France.



## Communists prepare for hard autumn in Italy

By Peter Nichols  
ROME, Aug. 30. The Italian Communists here today are preparing for a hard autumn. They are expected to face a series of elections in the next few months, and the party is expected to lose its majority in the Italian Parliament.

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## Mr Smith will put his internal settlement proposals to Dr Owen

From Michael Knipe  
SALISBURY, Aug. 30. Mr. Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, indicated tonight that he intends to put counter-proposals regarding an internal settlement when the Anglo-American negotiators arrive here on Thursday.

Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Andrew Young, the United States Representative at the United Nations, will be bringing the detailed Anglo-American proposals for a constitutional settlement in Rhodesia.

Speaking on radio and television on the eve of the counter-proposals, Mr. Smith said he hoped Dr Owen was not arriving with his mind already made up as a result of the discussions he had held elsewhere in Africa.

"Because I shall have some very positive proposals to put to him in keeping with the fundamental to any settlement," Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith said that when he met Dr Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State, in Pretoria last year, three things were agreed: the need for the retention of white confidence, skills and expertise in Rhodesia, the need for the retention of the existing security forces for the maintenance of law and order, and that Rhodesia should remain firmly in the Western camp.

Dr Owen had initially subscribed to these fundamental principles but, regrettably, Mr. Smith said, subsequent developments had led to a breakdown in the British and American governments were paying only lip-service to them.

Last month, he said, he made it clear to Dr Owen that "some features" of the Anglo-American proposals were "quite unacceptable because they would bring chaos to our country."

He had yet to learn whether the "very strong representations" Rhodesia made had had any effect on the proposals, but he hoped that his mind made up.

The Rhodesian leader told his audience that he would be misleading them if he were to express any undue optimism about Dr Owen's visit. He had already seen clearly the influence exerted on the British Foreign Secretary by the so-called African front-line states.

Now, he asked, could they be expected to support a democratic solution in Rhodesia "which would show up, by contrast, the disaster of their one-party dictatorships?"

Nothing would please them more than to see Rhodesia's security forces dismantled. Both President Machel of Mozambique and President Nyerere of Tanzania had stated publicly, he asserted, that they regarded the dismantling of the security forces as more important than the content of the constitution.

Mr. Smith went on to say that during a meeting with him, the two envoys had elaborated on the proposals which they had already outlined to the front-line states in Lusaka last week.

Rhodesia was being used as a football in a massive power struggle between the West and the communists. "We find the present British and American administrations united in their apparent determination to encompass our downfall," Britain and America's "lack of concern for the effects of terrorism on our black people" seemed to show that they had "a real and genuine interest in the welfare of Rhodesians whether they be black or white," Mr. Smith claimed.

Their overriding aim was to avoid a confrontation with the Soviet Union and the fact that the Patriotic Front were the protégés of the Russians accounted for the appeasement of this organization.

It was because of the "heavily external influence" that his Government had turned seriously to the practical alternative of an internal solution between the Government and moderate black leaders.

Mr. Smith reminded his listeners that he had had what he described as "realistic and pragmatic talks" with Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, on Saturday and said it was important to ensure that there was mutual understanding to enable "the safeguarding of the Christian civilization which has been built up in southern Africa."

Rhodesia's tiny and predominantly white electorate—1.5 per cent of the population—goes to the polls tomorrow, with Mr. Smith's Rhodesian Front seemingly assured of a massive victory, in spite of the vagueness and seeming inconsistencies of its election platform.

During the election campaign Mr. Smith had made political capital by casting doubts on the viability of the Anglo-American proposals.

He has contended that his own internal settlement plan has far greater chance of success, but has given no details. He intends, he says, to form a "broad-based" Government which will include African leaders who have renounced terrorism.

But it would be indiscreet and would jeopardize the plan, he says, if he were to name the Africans in question. He reassures whites by saying that even these Africans can be dismissed from the Government if they step out of line.

This unspecified broad-based Government would draw up a new constitution, which would involve one-man-one-vote. The fact that the only two African leaders who could give any viability to the "broad-based" Government—Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole—will accept nothing less than immediate majority rule on an adult franchise and expect the guerrilla forces to be integrated with the security forces appears in no way to have discredited Mr. Smith's plan of action in the eyes of most whites.



Briefing the Kremlin: Mr. Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, continued his talks in Moscow yesterday with Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, calling them a great success. Mr. Arafat told Tass that the Soviet Union, "a loyal and tested friend" of the Arabs, must be included in a Middle East settlement and he accused the United States of trying to squeeze Moscow out of peace negotiations. "The Middle East problem can be settled firmly and forever only with the participation of the Soviet Union," he said. There was speculation that Mr. Arafat might fly to the Black Sea to meet President Brezhnev.—UPI.

settlement and he accused the United States of trying to squeeze Moscow out of peace negotiations. "The Middle East problem can be settled firmly and forever only with the participation of the Soviet Union," he said. There was speculation that Mr. Arafat might fly to the Black Sea to meet President Brezhnev.—UPI.

## Begin rebuff for Assad PLO plan

From Moshe Brilliant  
TEL AVIV, Aug. 30.

Mr. Begin, the Israeli Minister, today dismissed as "completely unacceptable" a suggestion by President Assad of Syria that an Arab League team should represent the Palestinians in Middle East peace talks to get round Israel's objection to the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Mr. Begin, who was interviewed at Ben Gurion airport on his return from Romania, said: "Peace treaties can be signed only between sovereign states. You cannot sign a peace treaty with the Arab League. It is not a state institution."

He reaffirmed Israel's refusal to deal with the PLO in any circumstances. He noted that the PLO central council meeting in Damascus had restated the principles in the organization's covenant calling for the destruction of Israel.

Israel stood by its decision to involve its right as an original participant in the Geneva peace conference to veto invitations to the PLO as an organization or under an Arab League banner. If the Arab states continued to block the conference by refusing to attend without the PLO, the United States could promote close proximity talks or bilateral meetings between Israel and each Arab neighbour.

Asked to comment on Syrian threats of war if the peace efforts failed, Mr. Begin said that he had told President Ceausescu of Romania that Israel would never initiate another war.

He denied meeting any Soviet personality during his visit to Romania. Rumours were rife after he disappeared from reporters' view for five hours on Sunday afternoon and evening, but Mr. Begin insisted that he had taken a nap.

He had never requested to meet any Russians. Israel's assumption that President Ceausescu will report to the Soviet leadership on his meetings with Mr. Begin. Opinion is divided here over whether Romania's decision to retain its embassy in Israel was an act of defiance of the Soviet Union or a service requested by the Russians to keep a channel open.

## Political conflicts enter conference on deserts

Nairobi, Aug. 30.—The United Nations conference on deserts moved from ecology to politics today as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) accused Israel of engaging in anti-Islamic propaganda.

Mr. Naureddine Djoudi of Algeria, the OAU's assistant secretary-general, referred to an Israeli conference paper entitled "The Negev: A Desert Reclaimed" which said that "after the Muslim conquest of 640 AD, there began a rapid decline in agriculture and apart from a few hundred nomadic Beduin, no settlement existed in this area (the Negev)".

He said the paper also used the "new name" (Judea) for the West Bank of the Jordan.

The Israeli delegation later said that no boundary changes or maligning of people was intended. Meanwhile, Egypt asked that the United Nations "world map of desertification" be withdrawn. Sources said there were probably political objections to the way some borders were drawn.

The map, which has been praised by scientists here, states that its boundaries do not express a United Nations opinion on the status of any area.

In the plenary session, the OAU and Chinese spokesmen said colonialism and neo-colonialism were mainly responsible for abuses causing the spread of deserts.—Reuters.

## Mr Carter accused of neglecting blacks

From Michael Leapman  
NEW YORK, Aug. 30.

Fifteen leaders of black organizations met in New York yesterday to express bitter dissatisfaction at the lack of initiatives by the Carter Administration on matters concerning blacks. The meeting issued a statement criticizing the "callous neglect of blacks, the poor and American cities."

Black community leaders believe that it was black votes which tipped the scales for President Carter in last year's presidential election. They are, therefore, especially bitter that he has not begun to repay what they regard as a campaign debt.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was once an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, pointed out that the meeting was held on the fourteenth anniversary of the march on Washington which Dr. King led. On that march, Dr. King spoke of his dream for the nation, but "14 years later, the challenge is to fulfil that dream with economic parity and political development."

Mr. Jackson said that black people wanted to see from the Administration positive proposals for tackling unemployment, rebuilding the decaying cities and reforming the welfare programme.

## Anglo-American envoys arrive in Nairobi

From Our Correspondent  
Nairobi, Aug. 30.

Dr. Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Andrew Young, the United States Representative at the United Nations, arrived here tonight after stopping in Dar es Salaam to meet President Nyerere of Tanzania, one of the African front-line states. They had earlier visited South Africa to discuss the new Anglo-American proposals on Rhodesia with Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister.

President Nyerere said that during a meeting with him, the two envoys had elaborated on the proposals which they had already outlined to the front-line states in Lusaka last week.

## Kenya condemns Somali offensive

Nairobi, Aug. 30.—For the first time Kenya has publicly condemned the seizure of much of the Ethiopian province of Ogaden by Somali insurgents.

Kenya's new Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. F. K. Nganatha, has said in Addis Ababa: "Kenya condemns unreservedly the current aggression against Ethiopia."

Nairobi and Addis Ababa have a defence agreement though Kenya has not actively intervened in the war. Somalia historically not only claims Ethiopia's Ogaden desert but also parts of northern Kenya as belonging to a "greater Somalia". Nairobi is understood to be deeply concerned that Somalia could eventually launch a military attack on its northern frontiers if the Somali insurgents succeeded in capturing and holding the Ogaden.

Guerrillas supported by Somalia now claim to control the whole of Ethiopia's Bale province apart from two towns, according to the Somali news agency, Sonna. As the Ogaden to the east, the inhabitants of Bale are mainly related ethnically to the Somalis.

Quoting a communiqué of the Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF), the agency said guerrillas had killed 83 Ethiopian soldiers in fierce fighting near the town of Gindir, about 150 miles south-east of Addis Ababa. It said the Ethiopian survivors had fled to Gindir, which it described as one of only two towns in Bale province still under Ethiopian control. Both were under siege.

In response to a telexed inquiry the Somali Information Ministry said the other town was Goba, just to the west of Gindir.—Reuters.

Moscow's Mystery today surrounded the reported mission to the Soviet Union by President Muhammad Siad Barre of Somalia, believed to be seeking urgent talks with the Kremlin on the fighting between Somalia and Ethiopia.

## 16 French held in Kabul

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Aug. 30.

French diplomats in Afghanistan are trying to free 16 young men held by police in the Sina Hotel at Kabul after one of the party was found murdered in the Valley of the Buddhas.

The murdered girl, Mlle Dominique Cusin, had been chosen to be in charge of the group on an excursion to the valley and was looking after their money, amounting to about £290. She was found strangled in the valley, 30 miles north-west of Kabul, on Tuesday of last week. She had failed to make a rendezvous and a search party found her body in an isolated spot at the foot of the cliffs along the valley side.

The cliffs, with their giant Buddhas carved into the rock face, were a highlight of the month-long trip organized by the company, Nouvelle Frontières.

The Afghan authorities are holding the 16 remaining members of the party because they believe a foreigner was responsible for the crime. Afghan murderers, they have told the French authorities, do not strangle their victims but cut their throats.

## US second thoughts on Harrier jets deal

From David Cross  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.

Mr. Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary, is reported to be having second thoughts about the United States plans to buy up to 350 more British-designed Harrier jump jets, worth some \$1,500m (about £822m).

Although the Defence Department would neither confirm nor deny the review officially, well-informed sources say that Mr. Brown has rejected a request from the Marine Corps to allocate funds from next year's defence budget to finance the development of an improved model of the jump jet for the 1980s.

However, the sources emphasized that a final decision on whether to abandon the deal or go ahead with it was still a long way off.

The jump jet has come under strong criticism from some sectors of the Washington defence establishment, mainly because of its high crash record. Nearly a quarter of the 110 or so of the present AV-8A version purchased by the Marine Corps have crashed, six of them this year. Nine pilots have died.

Nevertheless, the Marine Corps itself apparently believes that the casualty record is not exceptional for an aircraft of its type and feels that the Harrier's operational advantages are so great they outweigh the disadvantages.

The Marines submitted to Mr. Brown a request for \$150m next year to carry out research and buy four prototypes of an improved AV-8B model as a first step to the purchase of 350 aircraft in the 1980s.

Mr. Brown's tentative rejection of the funds will probably appear in the draft defence budget which will go to the White House before the end of the year. The whole defence budget would then be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget before its submission to President Carter.

Our Defence Correspondent writes: The American move has surprised the RAF, which has been equipped with the Harrier since the 1960s.

This is despite the fact that the RAF has also suffered 24 "write-offs" and nine pilots killed out of 105 during the last nine years. A further 24 aircraft have had to be ordered from the Hawker Siddeley division of British Aerospace, to plug the gaps in the RAF front line.

## COMPANIES ACT 1976

### An urgent reminder to all Company Secretaries

From 1 October, companies will be required by Section 12 of the Act to keep accounting records sufficient to show and explain their transactions, to disclose their financial position at any time and to enable the directors to prepare accounts in compliance with the Companies Acts. These records must be preserved for at least three years by private companies or six years by public companies.

Every registered company should now have received a copy of the prescribed form (Form 2) for completion and return. If it has been mislaid, write or telephone for another.

REMEMBER... The new Act requires accounts to be prepared and copies to be laid before the company and delivered to the Registrar within clearly defined time limits, governed by the company's accounting reference date, and these obligations come into operation on 1 October. If a company does not notify the Registrar of the accounting reference date it wishes to use, that date will automatically be deemed to be 31 March.

ENGLAND & WALES  
The Registrar of Companies,  
Companies Registration Office,  
Crown Way, Mandy, Cardiff CF4 3UZ.  
Tel: Cardiff (0222) 388588  
Ext. 2476 or 2479.

SCOTLAND  
The Registrar of Companies,  
Exchequer Office, 102 George Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 3DJ. Tel: 031-225 5774.

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OVERSEAS

# President Tito given unexpectedly warm welcome in Peking despite his prior visit to Moscow

From David Bonavia Hongkong, Aug 30

President Tito of Yugoslavia arrived in Peking today in a "warm" welcome, according to reports, has been met in recent years only by those granted to the leaders of "fraternal liberation movements" in Indo-China.

The Yugoslav leader, who has just been visiting North Korea and the Soviet Union, was warmly greeted by Premier Hua Guofeng and other dignitaries. The exuberance of the welcome came as a surprise in view of President Tito's prior visit to Moscow.

His presence in Peking marks the culmination of more than two decades of changing relations between Yugoslavia and China. In the early 1950s "revisionist" Titoism was used as Peking's whipping boy in the ideological dispute with Moscow. Later, however, China came to support Yugoslavia's struggle for national independence against the "social imperialist superpower", regardless of its internal policies.

In the 1950s and 1960s, China was also active in the Third World movement, of which Yugoslavia was a pioneer. However, the theory of "three worlds" propounded by the late Mao Tse-tung and recently upheld by Chairman Hua, is different from the Yugoslav idea, because it regards the developed countries as the "first world", the United States as the "second world", and would presumably put Yugoslavia in this category.

Marshal Tito's visit comes only a few weeks after a decisive ideological break between China and its old ally, Albania. A dispute over the "three worlds" concept has been used as the pretext for the cooling off of a relationship which had become progressively less useful to China since its improvement of relations with the United States and Western Europe.

It was Albania's fear and hatred of Yugoslavia which originally drove it into the Chinese ideological camp. But it

seems that in the process, Mr. Ever, Hoahs, the Albanian prime minister, has become personally committed to a Maoist idea of "revolutionary purity", which has now been discarded in all but name by the leaders in Peking.

China's real interest in cementing ties with Yugoslavia remains geopolitical, as does its friendly relationship with the other Balkan power which resists Soviet domination, Romania. By showing solidarity with countries in Europe which seek independence from their superpower neighbour, China can emphasise its own determination to defend itself against Soviet attack.

Reagan said that China is interested in copying Yugoslav economic experiments in joint worker-management control of factories seen speculative at this stage. Peking has obviously become more interested in material incentives for workers, it is still a long way from the reformed Soviet model.

Photograph, page 14

# Mao's widow 'will not be executed'

From Harrison Salisbury Peking

The Chinese people are quite unhappy at the reluctance of President Carter to give up his old friend Taiwan, according to Mr. Li Hsien-nien, the fourth ranking Chinese leader.

Mr. Li, one of the five members of the standing committee of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party, speaking yesterday in an interview in Peking's Great Hall of the People, told me that some American politicians affirmed that China should take into consideration the feelings of the American people on the Taiwan question. But, he suggested, they were actually referring to politicians and elements of the mass media that continued to support the old friends in Taiwan. He thought that the American people did not share this view.

He suggested that in comparison with Russia the United States was on the defensive, trying to protect its vested interests while the Soviet Union was carrying out an expansionist policy in every way.

Russia was keeping up pressure on the Chinese difficultly but its primary target was the

United States and Japan as much as China.

Mr. Li denied that China was a war-like country. It would never fire the first shot in a conventional or nuclear war, he said. "We want war? We are not very rich, and if they say we have no raw material, it is not true." China had enough to live on.

Asked whether Chang Ching, Mao's widow, and her associates yesterday in an interview in Peking's Great Hall of the People, told me that some American politicians affirmed that China should take into consideration the feelings of the American people on the Taiwan question. But, he suggested, they were actually referring to politicians and elements of the mass media that continued to support the old friends in Taiwan. He thought that the American people did not share this view.

China would not follow the precedent of Stalin. Stalin was a great Marxist leader, but he liked to kill people. He liked to kill but not to let them live and feed them.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung had consistently held that the Chinese Communists should not kill many people. It was wrong to deprive wrongdoers of all political rights, to expel them from the Communist Party and to take away their official posts. It was also appropriate not to let them be at large for a period of time.

The activities of the band had caused difficulties in many regions. Mr. Li singled out

Hangchow as an area of great danger and said that in the past, when foreign friends came to see him, they were asked to go to Hangchow, the only way to deal with them was to say that the lake was under repairs.

Shanghai, the principal base of the gang, had suffered relatively little as it was the group's policy to maintain a stable situation in Shanghai while causing political and economic difficulties elsewhere.

Mr. Li said with some emphasis: "We do not kill them. We will let them live and feed them." China would not follow the precedent of Stalin. Stalin was a great Marxist leader, but he liked to kill people. He liked to kill but not to let them live and feed them.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung had consistently held that the Chinese Communists should not kill many people. It was wrong to deprive wrongdoers of all political rights, to expel them from the Communist Party and to take away their official posts. It was also appropriate not to let them be at large for a period of time.

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# Russians go back to their rural roots

From Christopher Wren Moscow, Aug 30

The official Soviet press may be busy orchestrating a public debate over the new constitution, but in these sultry August days many Russians seem to be preoccupied with their summer dachas.

President Brezhnev has one. So has Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the physicist and human rights activist. Even those who have to beg, borrow or rent a dacha have abandoned the hot city streets for the cool of the countryside. One Soviet architect estimates that perhaps 60 per cent of Moscow's residents have access to a dacha.

If the figure sounds high, it is because the dacha is a confusing concept. Once it referred to the summer estates of the landed gentry. Today a dacha has come to mean almost any kind of roof under which to spend a holiday in the country. Senior officials have state villas complete with swimming pools, the privileged majority a dacha may be nothing more than an overpriced room rented from a collective farmer.

For most Russians, who tend to retain a spiritual sense of rural roots, a dacha is a place to retreat to, to escape the absence of pavements or to sunbathe in a backyard lush with weeds. Dacha ownership has become a status symbol in a nominally classless society.

The country's leaders join the rush to the dachas, but quietly. They do not report their unofficial movements and instead spin out messages and proclamations to convey an illusion that they are hard at work. But Mr. Brezhnev has been receiving East European visitors at his hideaway in the Crimea, while Mr. Alexei Kosygin, the Prime Minister, is said to have a government dacha at the Baltic Sea resort of Panga in Lithuania.

Even lesser members of the elite retreat to their dachas, or at nominal cost. Central Committee staff workers are said to pay only 100 rubles (\$80) a year for theirs. The road winding west from Moscow through pine forest to the communities of Barviki and Zhukovka fills up with black limousines taking officials to retreats set back on wide roads marked "No entry".

Other communities are grouped by professions: Scientists congregate in Abramsevo, though a few such as Dr. Sakharov live in Zhukovka; dachas at Peredelkino and Krasnaya Polina are allocated to writers and theatre people; and foreigners may rent bungalows in a fenced-in government reservation.

Among those who do not qualify for a free dacha, the market to buy one is fierce. A teacher discovered that a good country home, with electricity and running water, costs up to 50,000 rubles (\$40,000). They have become outrageously expensive, she reported.

Institutional cooperatives are also common. According to one writer, the cinematographers' union put up a block of flats by a lake and invited intellectuals to buy, starting at 15,000 rubles for a one-room flat.

Manual workers got attention in the early 1960s when Nikita Khrushchev created allotments for them. These filled up with sheds that were turned into small dachas. When owners tried to expand their sheds beyond the 270 sq ft limit, they were blocked by the authorities.

Because there are not enough dachas to meet the demand, the scramble for a summer home starts long before the snow melts.

A good dacha has to be found through a friend and people start looking in January, one Moscowite said. Every year it gets more expensive. His wife added, "Before, we thought that 500 or 600 rubles for the summer was expensive. Now it is common to go up to 1,000."

Lending rooms has become a profitable sideline for suburban collective farmers. If they rent four rooms, they can earn 300 or 600 rubles for the summer, according to a scientist who knew a farmer who divided up his home and moved into the tool shed.

Russians theoretically are not allowed to have more than one residence at a time. Some have persuaded the police to leave Moscow and rent a home in a village near by. But this means giving up a valued residence registration in Moscow for one in the country, an irreversible bureaucratic step that even the mellowest grandmothers may be reluctant to undertake.

Because of the awkward questions that it raises about social inequality, the dacha issue is seldom discussed in the press. But when officials are disciplined for corruption, a common charge is that they have appropriated government funds to build themselves elaborate dachas. —New Times News Service.

## Students charged

Manila, Aug 30.—The Philippine Government today brought homicide charges against 18 college students because of the death of a fellow student from severe injuries suffered during a fraternal initiation rite. All of the accused, four of whom are girls, are still at large.

## 5,000 held over Sri Lanka violence

Colombo, Aug 30.—More than 5,000 people have been arrested as a result of communal clashes in Sri Lanka during the past two weeks, the government-owned Ceylon Observer said today.

Those arrested included known criminals and people suspected of murder, arson and looting, as well as curfew breakers.

About 100 people have been reported killed in the violence which began 15 days ago in the northern town of Jaffna, and was directed mainly against the Tamil minority of 2,500,000.

A 12-hour curfew has been imposed on Puttalam and Jaffna. Throughout the rest of the country a six-hour curfew was ordered for the eleventh successive night.

Official sources said that tea and rubber production has resumed. Several thousand Tamil workers on tea and rubber plantations, who had fled central and south-central hill districts, had returned. —Reuters.

# Community television's last chance?

After a summer break, Channel 40, the local community television channel at Milton Keynes, returns to the screens this week to face a variety of critical viewers from its part-sponsors at the Post Office to sitting room audiences on its own back door.

Launched jointly by the new city's Development Corporation and the Post Office eight months ago, Milton Keynes was the sixth station since 1972 to be granted a licence to operate local television. Its five producers were born of the need for the relay companies to find new uses for their cable systems which were fast becoming redundant as reception of network broadcasts even in the worst affected areas finally passed the tolerance barrier.

With one exception, the experiments were an almost total failure. Only Viewpoint at Swindon survives—and that only by the skin of its teeth.

Unlike the others, Channel 40 is not a commercial venture. It is financed by a no-strings-attached grant of £50,000 a year from the Development Corporation, and its sole function is to provide the residents with access to television equipment to make their own programmes. The idea, as it is in Swindon, is not to create a new breed of TV producers, but to provide a new means of communication for groups and individuals in the local community to exchange ideas and information.

It fits the Annual Committee's views on the future of community television: "We agree," they said in their report, "that cable television should develop as a local community service... If people can walk into their local station, borrow equipment and use it as a means of talking to the neighbours, this is read access broadcast from him."

However, if the people in Milton Keynes are talking to their neighbours, they don't appear to be beating a path to their studio door to do it. And although eight months is hardly long enough to judge whether the experiment is succeeding or not, the signs are that the technical resources. But dial viewers are still glued to BBC or ITV.

during most of the four hours per week of Channel 40 transmissions.

A comparison with network television was inevitable from the start. Potential programme makers are understandably put off by the standards they think are expected, and potential viewers are put off by the standard they think they should be able to expect. So the problem has been to convince people that Channel 40 is not so much inferior to network television, but different.

Michael Barrett, Channel 40's director, believes the message is slowly sinking in: "It's more a question of network TV not being able to compete with us. How could any company on the network devote four hours a week to just 30,000 people?"

Apart from any ideas Barrett and his staff might have, keeping the programme content of a local nature is a condition of the licence. Schools record concerts; the Citizens Advice Bureau advises; there are regular features on gardening and farming; a "what's on" spot; a regular series from the natural history group; and a weekly magazine programme produced by the Development Corporation itself which follows the network formula of studio interviews mixed with filmed reports, and which smacks less of propaganda than might be expected. And all this is done with top rating favourites like *Naxos* and *Crossroads* between 6.00 and 7.30 in the evening.

It is not surprising that Channel 40's critics say there needs to be both a clearer policy and more time spent on production. Barrett on the other hand remains committed to the principle of access, and to discovering just how the community will come to use its own television station without any prompting from him.

When it comes to the question of production standards, Barrett admits there is some room for improvement. The problem is how far to go: "If you go for a really professional production you fall away because there simply is not the time nor the technical resources. But even if we start to inject a little

professionalism to turn out better looking programmes, the chances are we get back to the situation where we are frightening people away from making programmes in the first place."

The next six months are going to be crucial not only for Channel 40 but also for the other surviving community channel at Swindon. Viewpoint, financed for a three year experimental period by EMI, is now on its own and about to prove a costly lottery, with a promise from Radio Rentals, who supply the cable, to underwrite any shortfall in operating costs until the end of December.

With a two year start on Channel 40, Viewpoint has attracted a larger cross section of the community to take up the challenge. The local police, the Wiltshire Fire Brigade, and a steam-roller driver, who wanted to create an awareness of the need for more after-care facilities for ex-psychiatric patients, have initiated programmes which they produced jointly with Viewpoint staff.

Just how highly the local people value their community television in Swindon will become clear in the new year when the money to keep it going will have to be raised locally—without outsiders to underwrite any shortfall.

And while Channel 40 is assured of a bare minimum of £50,000 a year until 1979, both the Post Office, with its interests in cable relay, and Milton Keynes Development Corporation, keen to see its new and growing community knitted firmly together, will want to see the project making its own way.

It is an election on just how hard it is to get community television right, the most ardent enthusiasts are beginning to ask themselves whether community radio wouldn't work better. The licence granted by the Home Office for Channel 40 and Milton Keynes fail to prove their worth before then, community television will have missed its chance for a good while to come.

Robin Laurance

# Katie Stewart Scones—a simple bread



reshaped in the circle for cooking. They have a floured dry and very flat surface which comes from cooking on a girdle dusted with flour. For these you need a gentle even heat. When the scone is ready, sprinkle the surface with flour. If the flour browns too quickly the girdle is too hot. Tip the flour off and start again.

For dropped scones the girdle should be a little hotter. These are made with a thick batter and you will need to grease the girdle lightly. The traditional method was to use a piece of fat in a tin and use this for rubbing over the hot surface. But nowadays it is better to take a piece of absorbent kitchen paper, twist it into a mushroom and then dip the larger end into a saucer of oil (which you keep handy at the works) and grease the pan between each batch of dropped scones. It is harder to judge the correct temperature for dropped scones (necessary to achieve an even browning) and it is always wise to test the pan with a small spoonful of the mixture before making the scones in earnest.

Soda scones  
Soda scones are made without any fat added. They are like a kind of plain bread and take only about 10 minutes to make.

Makes 8  
8oz plain flour  
1 level teaspoon salt  
2 level teaspoons bicarbonate of soda  
2 level teaspoons cream of tartar  
a little over 1 pint milk (about 6 fl oz)

Use a hot girdle, or an iron frying pan which has been sprinkled lightly with flour. Sieve the flour, salt, bicarbonate of soda and cream of tartar into a mixing basin. Stir in the milk to make a soft dough, to make 8 triangular pieces. Working surface and knead lightly for a few moments to smooth the underside. Turn over and roll out to a circle rather less than 1 inch in depth. Divide the dough in two if your girdle or frying pan is small. With a knife cut right across the dough to make 8 triangular pieces. Arrange them on the girdle or frying pan and cook until well risen and lightly brown underneath. You will find that the outside of the dough dries but does not stick to the hot girdle and with a palette knife you can lift up the edges and see how they are cooked. Turn them over about half way through and bake the second side until the scones are quite dry right through—takes about 8-10 minutes. I usually leave the heat even more during the second half of the cooking time and when they are ready I stand them on their sides for a moment to dry the edges too. Slide the scones off the girdle on to a clean tea cloth and keep them warm. Dust the surplus browned flour off the girdle and dust with fresh flour before you make the next batch. In Scotland you might have these for breakfast, they are delicious sliced open and spread with butter and marmalade.

These are most delectable served warm and newly made but with the addition of egg and butter to the mixture they will keep fresh and soft for one more day if enclosed in an airtight tin.

Makes 12  
8oz plain flour  
Pinch salt  
1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
2 level teaspoons cream of tartar  
1½oz butter  
1½oz caster sugar  
1 pint milk (or 1 egg made up to 1 pint with milk)

Sift the flour, salt, bicarbonate of soda and cream of tartar into a basin. Add the butter cut in pieces and rub into the mixture. Stir in the sugar. Make a well in the flour and pour in the liquid. Then, using a cable knife, cut and fold to moisten all the mixture, until a spongy, non-sticky ball of dough is formed. Turn it on to a floured board. Knead for 30 seconds to smooth the underside, then turn over and pat or roll out to half an inch in thickness.

Stamp out circles of the dough using a 1½ inch cutter.

Sift the flour, salt, bicarbonate of soda, cream of tartar, ginger and mixed spice into a mixing basin. Add the butter and rub into the mixture. Stir in the sugar. Warm the treacle in a saucepan until runny but not hot and draw off the heat. Add the milk and mix well. Pour into the basin. Turn out on to a floured board. Knead lightly for a few moments to smooth the underside, then turn over and roll or pat out to 1 inch in thickness. Stamp out circles of the dough using a 1½ inch cutter and place them on a floured baking tray. Dust the scones with flour and place on a hot oven (400 deg F or Gas No 6) to bake for 10-12 minutes.

Soda scones and drop scones should be cooked on an old-fashioned iron girdle, but a heavy cast iron frying pan with a good flat base will do as well. A girdle (or pan if used) should be thoroughly and evenly hot before cooking is started, so move it from time to time over a low heat so that it is heated evenly. For soda scones the dough is rolled out to a circle, then cut in triangles and placed on the girdle

Dropped scones  
The addition of golden syrup in the recipe here encourages these dropped scones to turn a beautiful, even golden brown.

Makes 2 dozen  
8oz plain flour  
2 level teaspoon salt  
1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
2 level teaspoons cream of tartar  
1 oz caster sugar  
1 dessertspoon golden syrup  
1 egg  
generous 1 pint milk (about 8 fl oz)

Sift together the flour, salt, bicarbonate of soda and cream of tartar. Add the sugar. Make a well in the centre and add the lightly mixed egg, golden syrup and milk. Stir from the centre gradually drawing in the flour from around the sides and mix to a creamy, smooth batter.

Heat the pan or girdle (previously greased) until you can feel the heat by holding your hand about 1 inch above it. Drop the mixture into round scones from a dessertspoon allowing the batter to fall off the point of the spoon. When bubbles start to burst on the surface, and the over with a palette knife. Flip them over with a palette knife for the first side and minutes for the second. As they come off the pan slip them into a folded tea towel, and buttered. Any unbaked ones that are not eaten straight away can be sealed (when quite cold) into an airtight container and they will keep fresh and soft for the next day.











## Tennis

# Umpires could use disciplinary powers at Forest Hills

sports contacts with South Africa. Another is that they resent the new ruling that prizemoney would be shared with the players and paid to the national association concerned.

The book findings here predict that the last eight in each singles event will line up as follows: Bjorn Borg or Guillermo Vilas (who beat each other in a thrilling match at Wimbledon), Guillermo Vilas v Raul Ramirez, Raul Ramirez v Brian Giamatti, Manuel Orantes v Jimmy Connors (a repetition of the 1975 final), Jimmy Connors v Guillermo Jean Ling, Susan Barker v Betty Stove (who beat her at Wimbledon), Betty Stove v Rosalyn Nandori and Dianne Fromholtz v Martina Navratilova. But there are plenty of thrilling prospects for the rest of the year, such as them ex-Rosewall, competing for the first time since he was runner-up to him in 1968.

Connors has been pestered by back trouble and seems to have lost confidence and has been beaten by the more likely winners are Borg, beaten by Connors in last year's final, Vilas, who has won six consecutive tournaments and 39 consecutive clay court titles, and Navratilova, who has won 11 titles and form after an arm operation.

Milis Evert has not lost a clay court singles since August 1973, and has been champion here for two successive years. But she will be pestered by the likes of Connors who beat her at Wimbledon and last weekend crushed her by 6-0 in the Inter-City tennis event, as well as the more powerful, taller and a better tactician than she used to be. These championships are predicted as a searching test of her new maturity.

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[illegible]

**Cycling**

# More gold for East Europeans

San Cristobal, Venezuela, Aug. 30.—Eastern Europe won another five medals in three events last night at the world track cycling championships. The Soviet Union, as expected, won the women's pursuit through Olga Kutsenko, and again, as predicted, Czechoslovakia took the tandem sprint

medal ahead of the Soviet Union. Surprisingly, however, the East Europeans picked up another two medals in the *poins* race expected to go to West Europe. The race was won by Tour of the English who together with Faltyn, of Poland, the silver medal winner, and Makorov, of the Soviet Union, the bronze medal winner, managed to get a one lap lead on the rest of the field. The race, contested by 30 riders, ended in confusion with the British and Italian teams both claiming victory. They should have had the bronze medal.

They contended that Nakarov had not taken a lap on the field. But, officials, backed by a firm race pace, sent to their placings in the race, said that the British and Brits had won the race by a narrow and fifth places and Italy

with tenth. The result was a bitter disappointment to the British riders, Hallam and Doyle, who rode with great intelligence and team work to nominate the race for much of the 50 kilometres.

ever, they could find no support, even among the other leading contenders, and were forced to concede the lap wiped out their points lead. Hallam finished fourth with 32 points and Doyle, a superb performer in this kind of event although he is only 19, had 31. Tourne had 29 to Faltyn's 21 and Makarov's 14.

The tandem sprint provided some thrilling racing before Vackar and Vymazal, of Czechoslovakia, took the title ahead of Semenets and Voronin, of the Soviet Union. Gewiss and Schaffer, of West Germany, beat Kotlinski and Kocot, of Poland, the reigning champions, to the bronze.

The Czechoslovak and Soviet

riders were forced to come from behind to win their semi-final round races after losing the first race in the best of three series. It was the third gold medal for the Czechoslovaks, who won in 1973 and 1974 and took the silver in 1975. Semenets, on the other hand, must be wondering just what he has to do to get a world gold. He has now won three silver

The women's pursuit was something of a foregone conclusion with Miss Kuznetsova completing a clean sweep of the track gold medals for the Soviet Union on their first appearance at the World Championships since 1974.

**Results :**

**POINTS RACE FINAL:** 1. C. Tourme (Belgium), 29 min-50 kilometres in 1 hr. 2 min. 3. Orbec (average speed), 18.46 kph. 4. J. Van der Putten (NED), 3.00. 5. M. Makarov (USSR), 1.1 pts. 1. Jan Hallam (GB), 22 pts, one lap behind. 5. A. Doyle (GB), 31 pts, one lap behind.

**TANDER SPRINT FINAL:** Gold medal, first leg: 1. V. Vackar (Yugoslavia), 10.13. 2. J. Semencic (A. Yorenin (USSR), 10.41. Second leg: 1. Vackar (Yugoslavia), 10.41.

**WOMEN'S PURSUIT:** Gold medal: V. Kuznetsov (USSR), 4 min 1.35 sec; boat A. Riemersma (Netherlands), 5:08.47. Bronze medal: K. Strong (Canada), 4:10.63, boat S. Burka (Canada), 4:06.63.

**Yachting**  
ATHENS: European Soling champion-  
ship: 1. W. Kuheide (W.G.); 2. S.  
Winnestrom (Sweden); 3. W. Sand-  
lowski (Denmark).



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## THE ARTS

## August Sander: a picture of German society

At the beginning of this century a young photographer living near Cologne conceived a great project to which he would devote his life. His name was August Sander and his project was to compile a composite picture of German society by means of portraits of people of every type and class. The people he photographed were drawn almost entirely from Cologne or the country areas around the city. Sander called his project *Menschen des 20. Jahrhunderts*.

The project was never completed, but Sander nevertheless photographed an enormous range of people creating a typology of classes from the very rich to the very poor. Some of these portraits were published as a book, *People of the 20th Century*, in 1929 with an introduction by Alfred Döblin. All copies were confiscated by the Nazis in 1934 and Sander turned to landscape photography. Although he lived to 1964 he never completely resumed his project after the war.

Despite the confiscation of his book, Sander did produce a number of photographs at Nazism. As with all his portraits he allows them to present their own image of themselves to the camera. They are a disturbing epitome to what is probably the most extraordinary and thorough visual documentation of an age through its people ever undertaken.

An enormous exhibition of 500 of Sander's photographs was shown in 1976 at Photokina in Cologne. The Scottish Photography Group has brought over 250 of these prints as its festival exhibition which is being shown at Edinburgh University's Talbot Rice Arts Centre, with a supplementary exhibition of Sander's landscapes at the Stills Gallery. It is the only photographic exhibition I have ever seen where I have felt compelled to stare for a considerable time at every one of the pictures on display. Sander's portraits have a riveting frontality. Almost invariably the people in his pictures stare straight at the lens with a most extraordinary penetration. They adopt poses which, although they may have been suggested by the photographer, convey immediately an enormous amount of information about that person, his station in life and his attitude of himself. Sander must have had a quite unusual ability to bring out these qualities through the poses of the people in his portraits. His advantage as a photographer was that he was a "local" photographer. These young men are not merely walking to a village dance but to their almost certain death.

The change in German life from before the First World War to the Weimar period is mainly apparent through the "professional" classes—the peasants often seem to remain the same even though they have hardly changed. Before the First World War schoolteachers pose and strut. In the Twenties they exude a different and, in retrospect, more sinister kind of confidence. Their pupils will become the *Hitler's* of 1933. Sander's photograph in Cologne in 1938. It would not be possible to undertake successfully a project like Sander's today. But that which Hilla and Bernd Becher have set themselves in the same tradition. They create typologies, not of people, but of industrial structures: power stations, water towers and so on. Their latest series, of mine headstocks, photographed in different parts of Europe and America, are now on show at the New 57 Gallery. They have the clarity and frontality of Sander (they use plate cameras too) although one of each of the pairs in this new series is a shot taken from a 45 degree



Young Peasants (Farmer's Sons) on Their Way to a Dance

a little diffident, almost as if they are aware that it is not a camera peering through a large plate camera at them, but history. The date gives an added meaning to what is already an arresting picture. "Westerwald, 1914". These young men are not merely walking to a village dance but to their almost certain death.

History always gives added poignancy and impact to photographs. One of Sander's most beautiful and saddest pictures is entitled *Young Peasants (Farmer's Sons) on Their Way to a Dance*. Dressed in their best suits, their broad-brimmed hats firmly pulled down over their foreheads, these young men pause, walking stick in hand, on the path they are taking to the village dance. They turn and fix the camera with their eyes, which are confident but

tricky! But though Perahia still finds the process of conducting to be a challenge, and directing from the keyboard particularly taxing—"there's so much coordinating to do"—the rewards far outweigh the stresses. "I like very detailed rehearsals with the orchestra. If we have that it's very exciting almost regardless of the results. If the results work it's wonderful. If they don't I still feel we went through a Mozart concerto and got a real conception of it. And working with the English Chamber Orchestra is a real joy. I'll very readily discuss with the players; after all, their solos are quite as important as mine and a proper dialogue between winds and piano is one of the real secrets of Mozart concerto playing. I wouldn't say it's a democracy but everyone is very involved."

I asked Perahia whether the dual role of soloist and conductor had altered his basic conception of the concertos, modifying the soloist's natural instinct to play out against the orchestra. "Yes, I think this is so. Indeed, I think it's a very important point. In the D minor Concerto K.466, for instance,

angle to reveal the structure. No human beings appear in their pictures, but in the way in which such industrial structures differ slightly from place to place something is revealed about the differences between people and their relationship to their environment.

Also at the New 57 Gallery is a small retrospective of works by Marcel Broodthaers. Broodthaers, who was Belgian, was influenced by both Magritte and Duchamp. He delights in verbal and visual puns. But once the point is taken the meaning of his works seems to be exhausted.

Paul Overy

## Murray Perahia's dual role

Murray Perahia is a pianist whose quiet, searching sensibility has won him many admirers in recent years. So it is not surprising that special interest is being shown in his Monday's Prom at the Albert Hall where Perahia will appear as soloist and conductor with the English Chamber Orchestra in Mozart's Piano Concertos K.414 and K.595. Music by turns exalted and exquisitely resigned, it offers a special challenge to Perahia whose career seems to have led him, with a happy inevitability, towards Mozart's keyboard concertos. A chamber-music pianist who learnt his art playing with Serkin, Cassels and the Budapest Quartet at Marlboro in the mid-1960s; a student of conducting; a devotee, above all, of the music of Bach and Mozart. To such a musician the challenge of the Mozart concertos is as inevitable as it is irresistible.

About conducting Perahia is both diffident and amusing. "My first concert was with a pick-up group drawn mainly from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. All I remember of the occasion is that I didn't have much idea of what I was doing and that the principal oboe was quite nice about it. The trouble was, though, I had studied conducting for five years in theory wasn't much use in practice. I mean, I can't read a score. I'm a very difficult person to get the players started and how to stop them—it's very tricky!"

But though Perahia still finds the process of conducting to be a challenge, and directing from the keyboard particularly taxing—"there's so much coordinating to do"—the rewards far outweigh the stresses. "I like very detailed rehearsals with the orchestra. If we have that it's very exciting almost regardless of the results. If the results work it's wonderful. If they don't I still feel we went through a Mozart concerto and got a real conception of it. And working with the English Chamber Orchestra is a real joy. I'll very readily discuss with the players; after all, their solos are quite as important as mine and a proper dialogue between winds and piano is one of the real secrets of Mozart concerto playing. I wouldn't say it's a democracy but everyone is very involved."

I asked Perahia whether the dual role of soloist and conductor had altered his basic conception of the concertos, modifying the soloist's natural instinct to play out against the orchestra. "Yes, I think this is so. Indeed, I think it's a very important point. In the D minor Concerto K.466, for instance,



the piano, with a few exceptions, plays a very reflective role. Certainly if you look at the piano writing in the last movement there's nothing, absolutely nothing, which compares with the drama of a first orchestral tutti: a passage which I'm convinced is some kind of vision of hell. And I think it's the same in the first movement, if the pianist tries to be too dramatic he robs the music of its essential character. The orchestral writing in K.466 reminds me very much of Don Giovanni, of the scene with the Commendatore's statue: of fate and death. And in the concertos the piano plays a very Hamlet-like role, full of doubt and shifting uncertainty."

Occasionally, of course, the pianist is given his head by Mozart. "Yes, in the finale of the C minor Concerto before the orchestra's big, dramatic variation there's a fairly furious passage for the piano, and then there is a kind of competition. But each concerto's so different. K.453 is a joy from beginning to end. There's none of the darkness there one finds in the minor-key concertos. And even they differ so much among themselves. The D minor is dramatic in an extraordinary way, the C minor is much more—well, haunted."

Richard Osborne

## Mark Twain in Heaven

White Suit Blues  
 Lyceum, Edinburgh

## Ned Chaffet

"Genesis jokes, Jesus jokes and Jehovah jokes." Jason Mark Twain to the black hole of Heaven in Adrian Mitchell's new play for the Nottingham Playhouse Company. It is best described as a mordant fantasy beginning with Twain's funeral and tracing his progress to a stage where the idea of God, and his ironic statements on earthly suffering are bound in a melange of Twain's own words and Mr Mitchell's inventions and some of Twain's own.

There are pleasures in the production but considerably less comedy than could be expected. Trevor Peacock speaks Twain's dark satire with fury and a touch of irony. With a rage that is already clearly expressed in the staging and in Pamela Howard's set designs, and which tends to make Twain appear more cantankerous and not thoughtful. Performances from such actors as Sylvester McCoy, who appears as a substitute Twain, Anthony Sher as a saint, and John Wood as God, and Larry Walker as Jim, belong to some of the best moments in the production.

Nottingham Playhouse under the direction of Mr Eyre has made valuable contributions to British theatre. The two plays, *Twain* and *Twain in Heaven*, show the vitality and diversity of their work. As this festival's representative of the regional theatre, Nottingham might be faulted on some points, but there are heights in both productions which wholly justify Mr Eyre's support for new plays. With his coming departure from Nottingham, only the best of his work, and his new policies will repay the city of London as much as Mr Eyre's did in the past.

Twain is judged in Heaven, reasonably enough, on the basis of his satirical writings, which have made him the most famous of Englishmen. Twain is judged in Heaven, reasonably enough, on the basis of his satirical writings, which have made him the most famous of Englishmen.

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having the twisted and deformed people he saw in Europe presented to him as God's experiments and he is forced to watch a brief melodrama play within the play, in which the deaths of his family are reenacted.

It is a play of ideas, not of action, although Twain and his daughter, Sally (Polly Warden), the one member of his family to visit for him in Heaven, finally take a plunge back to earth, where they are reunited with their family, and Black Finn and the slave, Jim, and other vocalists, on a raft on the Mississippi where they sing a fairly routine finale to Mark Twain's music.

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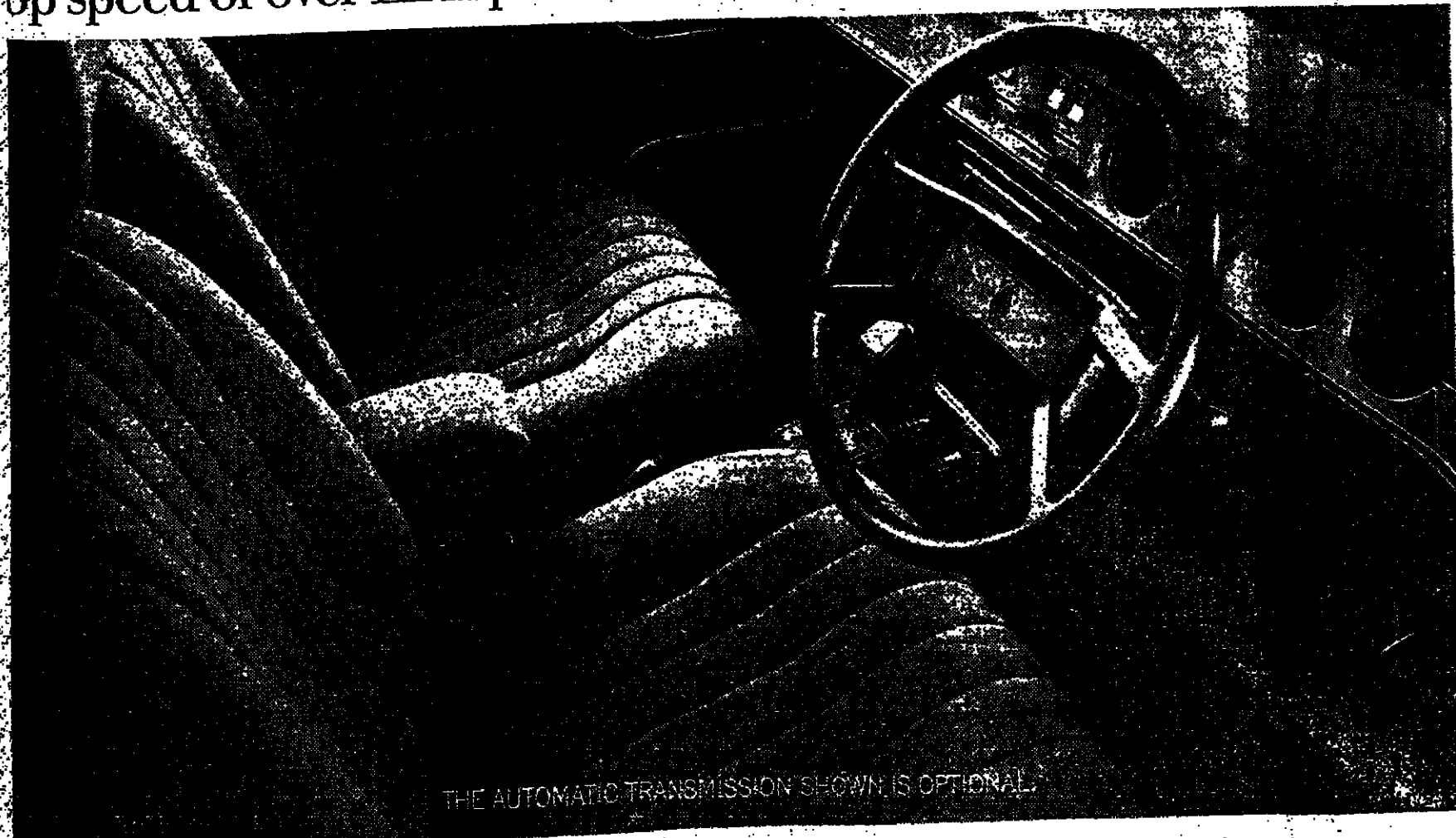
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# Closing the economic gap between supply and demand

I seek in this article to discuss an aspect of inflation which receives, I believe, too little attention. There seems to be wide agreement that inflation results from an excess of aggregate demand over aggregate supply. But discussion focuses mainly on the demand aspect. I suggest that the supply aspect, too, merits consideration.

Many people must ask themselves how there can be inflationary excess demand when there are, apparently, so many registered unemployed and when business is working below capacity. How can this paradox be explained? To say that the unemployment figures misrepresent the balance between demand and supply for labour is not a sufficient answer.

To resolve this apparent paradox, we must, I suggest, consider the economy from both ends. Demand exceeds supply because we have actively opened the gap between them, not only from the demand but from the supply end. We have, simultaneously, encouraged demand and discouraged supply.

Postwar conventional wisdom held that by raising demand, governments could generate growth. But we—and not only for us—have ruefully come to recognize that governments cannot generate growth. Though governments cannot generate growth, what they can do is obstruct spontaneous growth—and this is what they have done and what, in particular, this Government has done, and is doing.

In the last analysis, supply (and improved supply of what people want is what we call growth) is a matter of individual initiative and effort. At best, governments only create the conditions for it. Even if optimal conditions were provided to encourage initiative and effort, the individuals comprising society might still choose slow growth. If so, the choice should be theirs. But they have been given little choice in our cosseted, inefficient, anti-enterprise economy.

The encouragement of demand has been, until recently, the essence of our economic policy since the pursuit of full employment, using misleading unemployment and vacancy statistics as the criterion, has kept demand consistently high. But the effect, unintended and unobserved, of other policies has been even

further to encourage demand and simultaneously to reduce supply.

Let us start with price control. All price controls encourage demand and discourage supply. The adverse effect intensifies as investment and expansion are inhibited either by low rates of return or by fear of interference with market rewards. A good example is rented housing. Rent control encourages people to seek and hold housing which, but for subsidy, they could only afford by foregoing other demand, and at the same time it discourages private enterprise from providing more homes and flats to let. The result is an artificial government-created shortage of housing, with immeasurable social cost in human misery as well as economic cost in reducing the mobility of labour.

Second, consider overmanning—one cause of our low productivity and our relative decline. Millions of people are, today, employed, not because there is, the current quantity of goods and services would be produced even if they remained at home each day. They are paid as if they produced but they do not produce. They are enabled to contribute to demand, more than if they were unemployed and available for productive work, but they do not contribute to supply. The point here is that a demand/supply gap is created whenever someone is paid to produce goods or services, is not in fact needed for such production.

The aim of production is, and always has been, consumption. It has been increasingly violated in our own day with the clamour of "job creation", which probably destroys as many jobs as it creates, divorces work from production and consumption and turns work into a consumer's good in its own right. But it is dead sea fruit. More and more, the production of goods and services which people want, are diverted to producing work. So the total output stagnates while incomes rise.

There is over-production as well as over-manning. Some public policy since the pursuit of full employment, using misleading unemployment and vacancy statistics as the criterion, has kept demand consistently high. But the effect, unintended and unobserved, of other policies has been even

Most people, released from overmanning and over-provision, would soon find other work as lower government spending released resources for private productive industry. We should be expanding industrial production to improve our share of world trade. It is neither the job nor is it within the power of governments of a free society to identify the work to which people can go when released from overmanning. It is the task of governments to allow the process of job-creation to work spontaneously, as it will if enterprise is encouraged by a stable climate, lower rates of direct taxation for all, and less government.

Then there are policies which encourage demand—school meals, food, nationalized and industrial subsidies, and "free" health and education. To the extent that they are paid for through government borrowing or deficit financing, there is no offsetting decline in the demand for other goods and services by their eventual recipients. Moreover, the climate of our time emphasizes rights more than duties. Rights are demand, duty is supply. No wonder there is difficulty in reconciling demand with the reality of limited supply.

The consequences of incomes policy have been more complex. By compressing differentials and favouring the lower-paid, incomes policies have created conditions of high demand, suppressed inflation and a shortage of skills in high-skilled industries, while in the lower-skilled industries there is slump, inadequate profits and unproductive costs. Skilled men leave their trades if incomes policies erode their differential. For lack of their skills, many activities are frustrated—a loss of supply as well as of employment.

The fact that some people are not, or not much, worse off in unemployment and supplementary benefit than at work must discourage the supply of labour and thus of output. A decent society cares for those who cannot find work, but it is an element of decency to encourage work.

Moreover, some recent legislation intended to encourage jobs has, in fact, done the opposite. The higher the cost of employing and dismissing people in relation to their likely output, the less will employers start new businesses or

expand existing ones. Here is another discouragement to supply.

Above all, we have systematically discouraged the supply potential of large, medium, small and self-employed firms by an oversized public sector that bids away resources and skills, by pay, price and dividend controls, excessive marginal rates of direct taxation and over-regulation.

Present levels of direct taxation discourage effort at all levels of income and divert entrepreneurial talent away from job-creating enterprises. Nor must we ignore the resource cost of compliance with excessive regulations and of enterprise planning under fluctuating government policies. Anti-business, anti-profit attitudes which pervade the educational system, the Civil Service and much of the political world, all discourage supply by creating a culture hostile to enterprise and risk-taking.

These factors individually and in combination contribute to the widening gap between demand and supply which is the cause of inflation. They help to answer the paradox. They help to explain why the equilibrium rate of unemployment seems to have more than doubled from 21 per cent to nearly 6 per cent over the past three years. This level of unemployment may continue—or even rise—regardless of demand, if the perverse effects of these factors are not recognized and corrected.

To say this is not to imply acceptance of high or continuing unemployment. But instead of tracing and obviating the causes, government tries to tackle the symptoms, thereby creating a whole new series of predictable side-effects.

By creating a society like ours, facing increasing competition, new business communities in developing countries—as well as long-established ones in developed countries—are moving ever faster into our home and foreign markets. We depend for our standard of living and our jobs on two factors above all: innovation and value-added. Both should be spontaneous responses to the incentives and pressures of the market. But they emerge only if an encouraging climate is created.

Short cuts to higher employment will only lead to further erosion of self-sustaining employment. Only a decisive change to a pro-enterprise, high

productivity, innovating economy can reverse the downward path. If I am right, higher employment and an end to inflation can be achieved only if obstacles and distortions are tackled at the micro as well as the macro level with understanding and cooperation by the unions.

There is no other way to prosper at high levels of employment than by being competitive. Neither a siege economy—that is, rejecting the international division of labour; nor soaking the remaining rich—that is, consuming capital—will maintain, let alone increase, employment and standards of living. Nor will increased demand in itself increase supply, as some urge: because supply is checked by the obstacles I have listed and no trade demand would only raise prices still higher.

I think that, within a workable and humane framework of laws and taxes and institutions, a healthy economy has a capacity for spontaneous self-adjustment and self-improvement. But we have crippled our economic metabolism by well intentioned but uncomprehending policies. Indeed, the obstacles have increased rather than diminished since the NEDO report of 1963 on the subject.

We shall not prosper until we have corrected them and created conditions in which the innovation, the enterprise and the high-productivity on which our standard of living, our employment and our social depend are encouraged. These changes require economic policy but also widespread economic understanding. It will be relatively easy to move towards a balanced budget, to cut borrowing, encourage earnings, reduce legislation, but harder to raise productivity and encourage innovation while Labour and the TUC remain so wilfully ignorant of the processes of prosperity.

But even a new climate of encouragement and enterprise will not be enough if people do not believe that the new climate will endure. Nothing will do more for the prosperity and jobs of the people than common ground between the parties on the need to encourage supply as well as to control demand.

Sir Keith Joseph

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## Why don't the unions give women a bigger say?

Unless there is a sudden dramatic change from past experience, when the delegates settle in their places at Blackpool's Opera House for the 1977 Trades Union Congress women will not be there in anything like the proportion to their numbers in unions.

In 1976, of the 12 million union members in the United Kingdom, the vast bulk in unions affiliated to the TUC, three and a half million were women, between a quarter and a third of the total. But out of more than a thousand delegates at the 1976 TUC, only about 75 were women.

This is the more surprising because women's membership from 1965 to 1975 has risen twice as fast as that of men. Nearly one and a quarter million women joined unions over this decade as compared with less than half a million men.

Women have consistently been under-represented at trades union congresses in both white-collar unions like the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and manual unions like the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, and in all of the unions from the mammoth Transport and General Workers to the very small National Union of Lock and Metal Workers.

In the unions of health service employees, footwear workers and bakers, all with big female memberships, women last year did not appear as TUC delegates at all. Only in the case of the smaller unions were they over-represented.

All this is a reflection of the situation in the unions. In some women are still segregated into special sections or, more commonly, pay lower subscription rates and receive lower benefits.

The reason given is women's lower pay. Therein lies one of the explanations of why well over half the number of working men have joined unions, but only just over a third of working women.

Women joined extensively in early industrial struggles out of which unions arose. In Britain, as still today in most of the world, the mass of the population from four-year-olds to grandparents all worked. Women, therefore, were members of some of the same unions and friendly and benefit societies as men.

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in order to stay in employment. Segregation began as men, on their side, with considerable success, asserted prior right to work, most notably in spinning which had been an almost wholly female occupation until the advent of Crompton's mule spinning machine.

By the late eighteenth century women were reacting by setting up their own friendly and benefit societies and their own trade associations.

Yet women as union secretaries and officials still cause some surprise.

They were, however, forced into lower-graded work with no chance of competing for the jobs of the industrial machine.

Their self-confidence was sapped. Allied with the growing burden of housework as working people followed the Victorian upper and middle classes in amassing bric-a-brac and possessions, the outpourings of moralists, and later of the mass media, convinced many of them that "woman's place was in the home" and that trade unionism was a man's world.

Unions and employers seemed united against them.

Yet women never gave up trade unionism altogether, even in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Sporadically, in different parts of the country, they struck and organized in unions to maintain or improve pay and working conditions. They had most success in the booming industry of cotton power-loom weaving and later in teaching and distribution, in none of which unions could have been established without them.

Large numbers of working women, however, sank into a morass of "sweating", prostitution and starvation. Increasingly men and women trade unionists took over from upper and middle-class philanthropists the

work of raising wages, shorter working hours, negotiating days with pay, improving conditions, including their quite intense pressure for material and infant welfare tempered with suspicion.

The rash difference between women's aid men's pay is ever wider averaging in today's earnings £1.16s. 6d in 1822/3, £1.16s. 6d in 1977. Married women are still treated as a cheap, casual labour. But steadily rising strength women in the unions over a decade shows their grasp of how unions help them.

The unions, more and more, are dependent on their membership, even in the current recession with the growth of competition for work. It is only logical in their commitment to the recent equalizing legislation. These Acts, a great extent, a measure of the success of women's struggle through the unions, too economic equality.

Sheila Lewent

Dr Lewent's book *Women and the Trade Union* is published by Ernest Benn, price £7.50.

## A meal with the fighting men of the Saharai

Nibbling on thin tidbits of goat liver, I sat on colourful rugs in front of a long, low table in a typical "jaima" tent near the Algerian town of Tindouf, questioning members of the National Council of the Saharai Democratic Arab Republic (RASD) about the little-known history of their people.

Opposite me, a laughing middle-aged man held his right arm high, pointing with his left index finger at a deep scar which had deformed his wrist. "I've been in three wars", he said. "Our people have never renounced their independence. This is a souvenir from one of the wars and I have more under my robe."

The nomadic tribes which emigrated from the Middle East to the Sahara many centuries ago have no written history, but their history is conserved in their own oral traditions as well as in the chronicles of peoples with whom they have come into contact.

When in 1967 Moroccan Emperor Sidi Mohammed Ben

Abdallah Ben Ismail made a trade treaty with Spain, he made it clear in the document that south of Wadun (in the present southern Moroccan province of Tarfaya), "he cannot be held responsible for accidents and misfortunes which might occur, since his sovereignty does not extend that far, and the ferocious nomads who inhabit that country have always harmed people from the Canary Islands and have also taken them into captivity."

But it is hardly necessary to go so far back to find a sobering example of the fanatical determination of this fierce desert people to defend their vast wasteland which they call home. Saharai elders sitting around the table—with its incongruous blue plastic tablecloth—told the grim tale of a French assault by 800 soldiers in 1913, in which the desert dwellers took 40 prisoners and killed the rest.

The told, too, of a tradition of using the enemy's arms against him: of a battle in which 200 Saharais rode their horses into the face of the

enemy, and only the first line of attackers—15 of them—had rifles, the others picked up the guns of the fallen, whether friend or foe, and repeated the attack until all the Saharai survivors were armed.

Hardened by desert living, they continue the tradition. On May 20, 1973, a half-dozen sandal-clad men in flowing desert robes, on foot and armed with one pistol and a machine-gun which did not work, captured a Spanish patrol by a ruse at an oasis in what was then the Spanish Sahara. The attackers fired only one shot, with a pistol, to convince the well-armed Spaniards that they meant business. They tied them up and took away their rifles while one of the Saharai machine-guns on them.

Although there had been skirmishes between nationalists and Spaniards before, that was the first action of the Polisario (Saharai Liberation Front), created only 10 days earlier.

Within a year and a half the Polisario guerrillas were a force to be reckoned with. In December, 1974, in a 12-hour

battle near Tifariti, just north of the Mauritania border in the eastern part of the then colonial territory they killed a Spanish Foreign Legion sergeant and five members of the Spanish-led native desert police and wounded 11 other members of the Spanish unit.

The battle did not end until Spanish reinforcements arrived. Six guerrillas were killed and three others captured according to the Spaniards.

By grim coincidence, that battle took place on a cave-pocked plateau which harbours a cemetery where 40 French soldiers are buried. They were also ambushed, during the period of French attempts to colonize the Sahara.

Two months before the Tifariti battle, the Polisario had wrecked two control stations in a two-pronged attack on the world's longest conveyor belt, which takes high-grade phosphate ore from a virtually inexhaustible mine at Bu-Craas to the coast 60 miles away for shipment.

But the first shots in the desert war were probably those

fired by Spaniards in June, 1970. At that time Spanish troops opened fire on people stragglers in the Sahara capital of El Aaiun, killing at least two men.

Among those taking part in the initial military action of the Polisario in 1973 were Sres Ibrahim Gali and Wali Mustafa. Fired, within weeks, Polisario founder Mustafa Sayed was killed in action and became the national hero of the Saharais in their bitter struggle to win back their land. His fellow adventurer Gali is now the defence minister of the RASD, directing the war against Morocco and Mauritania.

Not only the guerrilla warriors, but the non-combatants as well have an indomitable spirit and generally high morale, together with the kind of motivation which seldom fails: the desire to recover the land which has been there for centuries, long before anyone realized what phosphates were.

Harry Debelius

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## How Old Moore foresaw more than he thought

A jubilant Ronald Belasco, managing editor of *Old Moore's Almanac* has sent me a Stop Press item. Among the predictions for August was this one: "Good travel insurance is advised at this time as delays, upsets and cancellations are likely to be exceptionally high."

I have italicized the last two words, for therein lies the credit to which the almanack—published in June last year—is entitled.

But Mr Belasco is altogether too modest. *Old Moore's* tally of successful predictions for 1977 included one about leading politicians dropping from view in China. "All radicals eliminated from leadership in China's new Politburo", said the main story on page one of *The Times* for August 22.

Elsewhere in his prognostications, *Old Moore* did less well. Outbreaks of infectious diseases did not proliferate and no key Soviet administrator defected to the West, with or without Warsaw Pact secrets. Mind you, August does not end until midnight tonight.

As a sporting seer, *Old Moore* was right about a four-year-old winning the Ebor Handicap, but that was the age of no fewer than seven of the 14 runners. And the winner carried 8 stone 6lb against 8 stone 2lb forecast in the almanack. The horse that corresponded most closely with *Old Moore's* prediction came fourth.

## Snake bite gets a new meaning

I have received a copy of a new guidebook to Hongkong's top restaurants. It seems indispensable to visitors to the colony, warning, as it does, where you might encounter the best chicken's blood soup or pig's brains stewed in wine.

Snake, I learn, should properly be accompanied with invigorating slugs of snake bile. They ward off rheumatism—as well, I should think, as customers.

The book tells where you can buy your own bird's nests for soup-making purposes, or find a broth made of fishes' lips. Other specialties include stuffed

crane and eagle. Eating dogs has been illegal since 1950, but culinary canine can still be ordered under the code name "three-six", a play on Cantonese words.

After that the idea of a 1,000-year-old egg is quite innocuous—and the revelation that a restaurant specializing in month-old pigeons serves them with Ovaltine comes as a positive relief.

My admiration goes to Daniel, husband of the author, Lady Nelson. According to the book's dedication he ate as many as three of these gruesome meals a night in the cause of her research.

A rose is a...

A team of experts from one of America's top glamour calendar publishers is in London to search for "the perfect English rose" to star in the 1979 calendar. The sponsoring firm is called the Ridge Tool Company.

RTC's delightful calendars are viewed by electricians and plumbers all over the United States and the full colour productions have in the past featured such stars as Raquel Welch. An English girl has never featured before—hence the current search.

If silence is not exactly golden, it can be rather expensive. A firm distributing a £3.40p cassette about a method for reducing hypertension without the use of drugs says in its publicity material that the tape contains a 10-minute interval for meditation by the user. As the cassette plays for 60 minutes, I estimate that you pay 50p for the silence. Perhaps in these noisy days, it is a bargain.

## Well egged on

It was good to read in *Thames Water News* that the Thames Water Authority has got its priorities right. Sludge pumping at Beddington Sewage Treatment Works (in Surrey) was suspended for two months to enable some rare bird's eggs to hatch.

Four eggs of the little ringed plover hatched successfully and the fledglings have flown the nest. "The drying bed can be returned to the authority," says the *Thames Water News*. Clearly, it would not approve of my appalling breakfast habits of plovers' eggs and champagne.

The Bull and Mouth public house in London's Bloomsbury, proudly displays a sign saying "A British heritage pub". Next to it, a poster proclaims "Topless Go-go Strip".

On the move

The *Daily Telegraph* diary carried an amusing item the other day about Edinburgh having somehow or other shifted over to the west of Scotland in the fourth edition of *Your Voice in Europe*, published by the European Parliament.

It was probably space considerations that prevented the *Telegraph* from saying that the same publication also put Inverness in East Anglia.

## Of mice, men and manners

Now for the ongoing Savoy Hotel mouse situation. You will recall that less august journals than this have in the past commented on the presence of too many Jerrys and too few Toms by the Thames-side flagship of Grand Metropolitan.

Well, on Monday night Madame and I were looking for somewhere to have a hamburger (our favourite London eatery, Pommesgrates, being shut on Bank Holidays) and we ended up at the Savoy. The Grill, where (I must tell you) we have been splendidly treated in the past, was not open, so we directed us from the American Bar to the Restaurant, most of which was closed for renovations (sic).

As Madame is on the strictest of diets, she wanted merely a cup of consommé. "Does Madame realize," said the waiter, "that there is a minimum charge of £4.50. Reserving my temper amazingly," I said: "Does the waiter realize that at £4.50 it had better be the best cup of consommé in the Kingdom?" It was not.

Then came the mice. The dance floor in the Restaurant is being repaired and, as the head waiter said, "they seem to have appeared from nowhere."

My mouth watering and my whiskered whiskers I write, I have to tell you that half a dozen Imperial mice are the big ones—will cost you all of £3.50 when the new season opens tomorrow.

That, at least, is what Scott's of Mayfair will charge you. But marvellous molasses will be in superabundance because the weather this year has been ideal for them. And there is consolation of a sort: Philip Lawless, the restaurant's manager, tells me that prices are not likely to rise again during the season.

## Shadow of do

Contrary to what you may read in the *Daily Express*, today, David Owen, Foreign Secretary who is in Rhodesia tomorrow, will be run around Salisbury. Rolls borrowed from the American Corporation.

He will be asked to "rebel" against the rebels' appeal in a Shadow provided by Sir I. Scott, our man in Pretoria, who will also lead Dr. C. M. Chubb's for the occasion.

The *Telegraph* left Pretoria yesterday for the Road to have appeared from the shadows of a Journey of 700 miles.

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## RIVALRY AND CRIME

ar's Notting Hill Carnival, that of 1976, was reasonably planned and organized. The police and the police amicably on the routes to the procession. The police, mindful of the need to adequate numbers, in the last year that the carnival was in the background as far as the carnival organizers. The end of those positive events of last year, repeated, albeit on a smaller scale.

At one level, it can be argued that the issue is not one of race, but one of young hooliganism, analogous to the problems posed by the Glasgow gangs, or football hooligans. But the events at Notting Hill cannot be entirely divorced from race. The police can, and do, stop and search young thugs going into football matches. They cannot, because of the consequences for race relations, do the same to young blacks coming to carnival (quite apart from the practical impossibility of doing so). The kind of crowd-control measures that could normally be used for large gatherings are to a large extent placed out of bounds by the sensitive nature of the relationship between young blacks and the police.

Understandably and justifiably the courts have been urged to pass very severe sentences on those found guilty of the most serious assaults, especially against the police. There is no difficulty about this when the offender is 17 years of age or over. He can if the court thinks fit be sent to prison for the appropriate period.

Many of the young hooligans, including some of the most vicious ones, are, however, 16 and younger. They are treated as children in law. They cannot be sentenced to term of imprisonment. The 15 and 16 year-olds can be sent to Borstal, but the average stay there is well under a year, which might be thought too short a time for some of the more serious offences. Detention centres have not proved to be of great value in dealing with the really tough thugs, and are certainly no effective deterrent. The magistrate may make a care order, and the local authority can then place the offender in a community home, but that too

could be considered a lenient course. There are some places where difficult disruptive hardcore young criminals can be held in secure conditions, but there are not enough of them, and they will not necessarily be appropriate for the kind of offenders involved at Notting Hill. It may be that a change in the law is necessary to allow a court greater powers to order the detention of a young offender for a given number of years at the Home Secretary's discretion. They can do so now for only murder and other crimes which could attract, if the offender was adult, more than 14 years imprisonment. This would require the provision of more secure accommodation to which those given such sentences could be sent.

Should the carnival be banned altogether? It would be unjust to the black community, the vast majority of which is respectable, decent and law-abiding. It would also be a grave admission of failure to have to admit that a few hundred hooligans can cause an event which gives great pleasure to a quarter of a million people to be abandoned. It might also be counter-productive, and result in the exacerbation of tension between the communities. After all, it has been said already, football matches are banned because there is a risk of violence on the terraces and in the surrounding streets. To ban carnival could seem to be a discriminatory act. The police and the carnival organizers are aware of all these factors, and they will no doubt be studying the possible arrangements for the future which draw on the lessons learned over the weekend. They should be given the chance to come up with a scheme which might allow next year's carnival to go ahead.

Unless the Government can find a way to greatly increase police power, there is I believe, more than a possibility of some sections of the police service moving irreversibly down the same road to industrial action that has been taken by dockers, more and civil servants. Unless, too, the public—and Parliament—make clear their support for the police, by shifting the centre of gravity of legislation and current court practice in the direction of the law-enforcers at the expense of the law-breakers, I fear it will be impossible to sustain the ordinary policeman's confidence in his office, and himself.

The police are in the firing line. They need and deserve support. Lately, that support has not been forthcoming in sufficient measure. The police, better equipped, better paid, better supported, police and police who believe in themselves because they know they have the backing of those they serve.

Why doesn't the Government take the steps needed to provide them? The national interest requires it. The public wants it, and the police cannot wait much longer.

Yours etc.,

ELDON GRIFFITHS, Adviser to the Police Federation, House of Commons.

## Prophets of doom

From General Sir Horatio Murray  
Sir, it is not the prophets of doom, headed by Lord Chalfont, to hold their peace?

The Lord Chalfont takes up quite a number of columns in your paper heralding the Nuclear War, the Russian Threat, and now the possibility of a nuclear war in the country. He may well meet the expectations of some, in whose ranks I am not numbered or ever likely to be.

We did have a civil war in the seventeenth century when the King was at loggerheads with Parliament, and at a time when the country was torn by religious beliefs. The present state of affairs is too shallow altogether to be compared with those of 300 years ago, when we produced a Dictator and a Republican Government.

And these affairs to do with football fans and demonstrations bearing "banners with strange devices" a reflection of medieval England, typical of our way of life over the past 1,000 years. The only difference is that we are now a nation of the world in arms and we shall stick them.

The affray in Londonderry (Yorkshire) where the supporters of Sunderland, returning from their defeat at Ipswich, and others coming to a match at Leeds, looked at each other, took off their coats, and engaged each other with the greatest enjoyment. The followers of the man named in the days of the Plantagenets, a mere 700 years ago, would have welcomed such a situation with the same enthusiasm. The difference is that there are more of us today, and the weapons used are not so lethal.

Why do we bother? It is probable that the demonstration in "Hot" area should not be encouraged. But we should never deny the right of all people in this country to make their wishes clear, whether they are acceptable or not. These affairs enable us to let off steam and goes a great way to ensure that a "confrontation" on the scale of the 17th century will not necessitate the appearance of a second Cromwell.

His arrival, having fronted up the present day "Levellers" and "Disgraces" would, I imagine, be the last person the TUC would want to deal with.

Naught shall make us rue if English to itself does rest but true. This applies as much in the 20th century as it did 300 years ago.

Yours faithfully,  
R. MURRAY,  
3 Dunneaves,  
Mount Park Road,  
Harrow-on-the-Hill,  
August 23.

## Bowling analyser

From Brigadier C. E. H. Sparrow  
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## Restrictions on disabled

From Mr Guy Coates  
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If such regulations became widespread, the promotion prospects of disabled people would surely be even more jeopardized than at present. Yours faithfully,  
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## COURAGING MOVES IN PERU

decision of the military government of Peru to lift the emergency that it had last year is a welcome move. The trend in Latin America is not always towards repression. Peru has in the past taken such a tough line against groups as, for instance, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and it has used its intention of lifting the emergency to a rule, with an elected president, in 1980. The move by President Francisco Morales Bermudez and his aides to restore constitutional rights now is an indication they intend to stick to this

In these circumstances, the government had a choice between two main courses of action—to tighten its repressive measures in spite of the evidence that it would have difficulty in maintaining control, or to continue with its policy of liberalization. It chose the latter. The question now is whether it will feel justified in maintaining this course of action, or whether agitation in the future will lead hardliners in the government to feel they should intervene in the way the Chilean armed forces did in 1973.

Peru, of course, has very little in common with Chile, in spite of their common Spanish heritage. Peru is a country with a large Indian population, scattered across the Andean highlands, or living in shanty towns on the edge of Lima and other cities, while Chileans are largely of European origin. The two countries have also been at loggerheads with each other for many years; memories of the Pacific War, fought nearly 100 years ago, in which Peru was humiliated by Chile, are still fresh.

When the military took over in Peru in 1968, they set up a regime which was very different from others in the area. They declared themselves to be leftist and embarked on a programme of social reform involving land redistribution and assistance to the Indians. They also took a marked step towards the Russians by starting to buy tanks, aircraft, and artillery on a large scale from them. This has made the Americans worried, though there appear to be few signs that the present Peruvian government, at least, has come under Russian influence. It can be argued that the arms build-up is largely in reaction to the build-up in Chile, where they get their arms from the Americans.

There are suggestions that General Morales Bermudez is himself interested in being a candidate in 1980. If so, he will have to defeat candidates put up by the country's political parties, which are now beginning to flex their muscles again after several years of inactivity. In any case, the prospect is an encouraging one by contrast to the regimes to the south, provided nothing goes wrong between now and then.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

# EC in disarray over Danish moves to devalue green crown'

Michael Hornsby  
Aug 30

European Community able to agree tonight on to accede to a Danish to be allowed to use the green crown, used in intra-EEC farm at 75 per cent to bring line with the new exchange for the Danish crown, which was devalued by 10 per cent.

The EEC rules, special exchange rates are used in farm an attempt to even out competitive effects of currencies and thus prevent the fiction of a common currency prices in the green crown, not it will mean that farm exports will not have competitive benefit would normally follow devaluation.

According to informed sources, Britain was among countries opposed to a union of the "green One reason for this might be the desire to British pig meat from imports, which caused problems in the year.

It was also understood to have raised objections to a "green crown" devaluation, apparently because they feel that green rates should not automatically be realigned after devaluations.

Denmark's request was considered by the committee which brings together permanent representatives in Brussels of EEC states. It is to be looked for that lower level officials on Thursday.

The 5 per cent devaluation of the Danish Crown was part of a realignment of currencies within the Snake, the joint European currency float, which was agreed last weekend at a Franco-German meeting of members using the Snake.

Norway's currency, another Snake participant, was also devalued by 5 per cent, while the Swedish Krona was devalued by 10 per cent and withdrawn from the joint float pending an improvement in the deteriorating Swedish trade balance.

In addition to Denmark, the other EEC countries in the Snake are West Germany, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. Britain and France were also members at one time but had to withdraw as their alliance currencies could not observe the disciplines required.

## More countries may take devaluation path

national exchange market are tense and nervous in the wake of the devaluations of Scandinavian currencies and the withdrawal of Swedish krona from the European currency float. There were widespread fears that devaluations might be followed by the seceding of Denmark and Sweden, Austria and Belgium were now said by some to be suspect in the Government of Finland yesterday were seeking a common consensus on devaluation of its currency, and expected to decide today on a package of economic action is regarded as inevitable, and the question appears to be of how much the mark should be revalued. The decision is expected to be a "safety" in the national wages and salaries.

At the same time, the Finnish Minister, suggested that due to a few per cent devaluation, trade unionists for a new round of devaluations. But trade union employers' leaders said that any negotiation of a settlement would probably lead to a devaluation.

At the same time, the emigration confederation has urged a devaluation of the currency should be big

country's competitive with Sweden, in other words about 10 per cent.

The dollar, meantime, had an erratic day, rising sharply against most other currencies at first, then dropping back equally sharply later.

Its late fall was particularly strong against the Swiss franc, which has seen a considerable inflow of foreign funds in recent weeks.

The Swiss authorities are known to have become increasingly concerned about this inflow and are thought to be considering further foreign exchange restrictions.

Earlier Mr Carl-Henrik Hordlander, governor of the Swedish central bank, told Reuters that there was a considerable inflow of capital into Sweden on Monday following the 10 per cent devaluation.

But he declined to confirm press reports that the central bank had bought heavily (about £141m) thereby recovering almost a quarter of the reserves it lost earlier in a vain attempt to maintain the Swedish krona within the joint European float or "snake".

The dollar rose a good day, rising marginally against the dollar—up 0.03 cent, at \$17423—compared with its Friday night level, and against other currencies. Its index against a basket of currencies closed up 0.63 per cent compared with 62.0 on Friday (December, 1971=100 on this index).

## OFT takes concrete companies to court

# To court

By Malcolm Brown

Mr Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, is to take companies which operated alleged price rings in the re-estimated concrete industry to the Restrictive Practices Court.

The Office of Fair Trading announced Mr Borrie's decision yesterday when it placed on the office register a further 13 alleged price fixing agreements, bringing the total so far to 20. The OFT said there might still be a handful of further cases.

Mr Borrie will ask the Restrictive Practices Court to make an order stopping the companies involved giving effect to the alleged agreements or making any similar ones.

The agreements placed on the register yesterday were all identical, involving an agreement between companies covering an area that one of their units should win a particular contract.

Tender prices were then arranged to ensure that the chosen company got the contract. Some of the arrangements lasted for as long as 11 years.

Among the companies which the OFT register shows as involved in a significant number of these deals are Amey Roadstone Corporation, United Concrete, and Mixconcrete.

Amey said yesterday that it had no comment to make on Mr Borrie's action. RMC said that the agreements had been registered; the company would have to consider its position before the court.

## Disputes at home and away make 15,000 idle at Leyland and threaten further cutbacks

By K. W. SNAPE/ESPRESSO

More than 15,000 British Leyland car workers were idle yesterday with five separate model ranges out of production and other assembly lines being progressively run down because of shopfloor disputes. Most of the dispute-ridden component suppliers are, therefore, outside Leyland's control of the state-owned car firm.

It seems inevitable that the chaos in the motor plant will become even more widespread during the week and that more production will have to stop. Many thousands more workers up and down the country are facing lay-offs.

Although Leyland is taking the brunt of the disruption, its rivals Ford, Chrysler and Vauxhall are all vulnerable with their existing stocks of components running down. But for the recent holiday shutdown these stocks would probably have already been exhausted.

One added complication is that some alternative overseas sources of components are starting to dry up.

The biggest trouble arises from the eight-week strike by Lucas toolroom workers which has closed 14 of the group's component factories in the Midlands. These are the main suppliers of many of the components to the motor industry, with Leyland by far the biggest customer. Nearly 2,000 other Lucas workers have been laid off.

The 1,200 strikers have rejected a management offer of a bonus increase, plus a £100 per head lump sum payment to cover loss of bonus earnings during the period before the strike when they were working to rule. They are holding out for a 10 per cent weekly wage rise.

Their leaders have threatened to call on motor industry workers to "black" imported components. How far this threat has influenced decisions by car companies to go on importing, or the extent to which there is a genuine dry up of overseas sources, it is difficult to judge. The companies have been reluctant to give many details about the quantity of components they have been bringing in—or their sources.

The cumulative effects are disastrous for Leyland. About 11,600 workers are laid off as a direct result of the Lucas dispute. The Princess, Marina, MG and Triumph Spitfire ranges are in production because of component shortages, and Triumph Dolomite output is being run down.

Leyland has trouble in two other areas. At Jaguar in Coventry production is halted—apart from some final assembly operations on partly completed cars—because of component shortages resulting from problems with suppliers, and at the A. C. Delco. There could be more lay-offs at Jaguar today.

In the nearby Jaguar engines and transmissions factory 1,300 workers are still

This stoppage is in support of a £20-a-week pay demand. The Jaguar workers also stopped a phase two pay settlement and lodged their £20 claim which runs contrary not only to the Government's policy but to Leyland's own renewed efforts to rationalise pay structures throughout its car manufacturing operations.

But Leyland's car plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, is at present operating normally, although it may run into component supply problems soon.

The great majority of Longbridge workers voted against an annual general meeting after a rebellion by shopfloor moderates forced shop stewards to call off plans for an all-out strike that was to have started at the weekend.

The stewards had lodged a claim for a 47 per cent increase. The management offer, when the company replied, envisaged a deal—tied to productivity increases—that could mean a 32 per cent increase or about £20 a week on average spread over the next two years.

Some figures suggest that a shopfloor vote of 9,000 for and 5,000 against showed a substantial majority in favour of accepting the company's proposals—almost 9,000 for with under 5,000 against; and about 6,000 workers not voting at all.

## UK reassurance after Mini order goes to Germany

**By Edward Townsend**  
**British Leyland's decision to**  
place a second big contract for  
machine tools with a foreign  
manufacturer should not be  
used as the basis for firm con-  
clusions about the company's  
buying policies, the Machine  
Tool Trades Association said  
yesterday.

The association said it was  
disappointed the order had not  
gone to a United Kingdom com-  
pany, but Leyland Cars was  
only beginning its big capital  
investment and the machine  
tool industry was fully aware

that Leyland would be buying about 540m of equipment by the end of next year.

This order, worth £4.6m, has gone to Heller of West Germany and covers the supply of an automatic line for the production of a radius arm for the rear suspension unit of the Mini replacement model.

Three United Kingdom companies and two from Germany tendered for the contract and a spokesman for Leyland said the Heller tender most closely met the stringent requirements of Leyland engineers.

He added that it was the company's intention to buy British tools, "but obviously since we are an internationally competitive motor manufacturer it is sometimes necessary for us to go abroad for the expertise required".

A few weeks ago, Leyland Cars Ltd. contracted to buy about £7m for special welding machines to another German company, KUKA.

Meanwhile, Leyland Cars was reluctant to comment yesterday on reports that its plan to double output of Land Rover and Range Rover models had run into shop floor opposition

The expansion will mean that some workers, particularly at Canley, will have to transfer jobs, and the introduction of an extra shift at Solihull.

Leyland is insisting on prior approval to the plan from workers and has proposed the establishment of a joint working party to discuss the scheme.

Large sections of Triumph and Rover workers have opted out or are refusing to join Leyland's general participation plans.

## Big claims at Clyde shipyards

Govan Shipbuilders' board will, at a meeting in Glasgow next week, consider a 20 per cent pay claim on behalf of almost 3,000 workers—the company has a labour force, including staff, of 5,500—which was agreed overwhelmingly by a meeting of shop stewards in Govan yesterday.

The claim covers manual workers at both Govan and Scotstoun Marine yards. The men are also looking for a further 6 per cent increase in fringe benefits, an additional claim for consolidation of increases under two phases of pay restraint, mainly for holiday pay benefit.

The works at the naval yard of Yarrow, down the Clyde, have put in a claim for an increase of about 65 per cent to include a 20 per cent increase.

These claims come on the eve of a visit to Scotland by the Prime Minister.

## PO criticized for 'sour' views on Carter report

Mr Charles Carter, chairman of the committee of inquiry into the Post Office, yesterday criticized the corporation for its initial response to the committee's report, published last month.

The corporation's reaction had been "distinctly sour", said Mr Carter, who is Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University. The Post Office view seemed to be that the inquiry was unnecessary and incompetent—something best forgotten.

Such a response, Mr Carter told a seminar organized in London by the Mail Users' Association, was "unwise". It would have been difficult to find a more competent committee, when the corporation really meant was that no outside body was competent to inquire into its affairs. That was an unacceptable view.

Mr Carter, whose committee recommended the reorganiza-

[illegible]

## Buyers give shares further boost

**By Our Financial Staff**

The FT Index resumed its upward march to 500 yesterday as a bull return set in over the long weekend. The level of trading was slow to pick up, however, and was mainly concentrated on front line stocks. But leaders withstood a hour of pressure and the index went on to show a 4.4 improvement to 490.9. Traditionally sluggish action is so far showing a 3.2 rise.

ICI unveils its second-quarter performance and jobbers' confidence was reflected in a 3% improvement to 412p. The retail sector was also well to the fore on hopes of a consumer spending upturn this autumn and Boots, Scottish and Universal Stores were up. H. Smith & Son were prominent.

Beecham Group captured much of the attention with the help of rumours that it was about to split its shares into more marketable form. The group was said to be preparing to take this course despite its merits. The shares improved 18p to 620p.

New stockbroking firm: The tone of returning optimism was appropriately caught by the Stock Exchange, officially sanctioned the formation of a new firm of stockbrokers, Kent, East, Newton & Co. The new firm will start trading on October 17 and, subject to election, will be based at the Stock Exchange. Mr Richard Grahame and an external limited partner will head the firm with Mr John East and Mr Peter Kent.

Financial Editor, page 17

## Tighter credit policy feared in America

Continued from page 1

plant and equipment and for consumer products, and a drop in new construction permits issued.

The index also recorded increases in the money supply, in stock prices and in business liquid—a fall in wholesale prices.

The composite index is designed to predict movements in the economy and the last time it changed direction for three months was in the spring of 1975, when it accurately indicated the trough of the recession.

It has been climbing somewhat erratically ever since then and this is the first time since late 1974 when it has fallen for three consecutive months.

The only source of news on the economic front today was a set of predictions for new car sales in the 1978 model year that is just about to start.

Mr William Bourke, executive vice-president of the Ford Motor Company, told a press conference that total United States car and commercial vehicle sales in the new model year are likely to reach at least the high 1977 level of 14.6 million units.

General Motors last week projected the new sales would actually reach 15.5 million units.

The Fed's disclaimer about monetary policy is being viewed with some skepticism. There are fears there would persist of a further tightening in credit policies.

The rate of money supply growth continues well in excess of the declared target ranges and further sharp increases in the money stock in the next couple of weeks are widely expected. This still raises monetary policy questions.

Such a change in Fed poli-

gies is likely to be evident in its operations in regard to the rate for federal funds. This rate had moved upwards over the last month and the Fed now appears to be striving to hold this rate around 5 per cent.

A further, even modest gain in the rate for Fed funds, which is quite widely anticipated, could prompt the commercial banks in the next few weeks to raise their prime lending rates. This would be in line with the recently established widespread level of 7 per cent.

Despite mounting evidence of a slowdown in the economy's general growth rate and moderation in the inflation level, there is general acceptance in the markets and among bankers that interest rates, current levels and may well rise modestly from now to the end of the year.

## Shell Chemicals in ethylene cracker deal with Esso

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Plans for exporting large quantities of ethylene to Europe were announced yesterday by Shell Chemicals U.K.

The company disclosed that it had signed a preliminary agreement with Esso which would give Shell access to 40 per cent of the output of a 500,000 tonnes a year capacity ethylene cracker which Esso wants to build in Scotland.

Esso's plan would involve the construction of a plant at Mossburn, Fife, to process ethane derived from natural gas. The proposed plant would be operated by Shell which would take its supplies from the Shell-Eso Brent field in the North Sea.

Both plants, which involve a combined investment of more than £40m, have been the subject of planning inquiries earlier this year, and the Secretary

## Investigations in US on Triumph cars

Washington, Aug. 30.—America's Department of Transportation said yesterday it was initiating two safety investigations involving cars made by British Leyland since 1965.

The first concerned windshield wiper malfunction between 1969 until end-1977 on Triumph Spitfire, TR-6, TR-7 and Stag cars. The department said 128 complaints had been reported.

The second investigation concerned lighting system failures between 1970 and end-1977 in the Triumph Spitfire, TR-6 and TR-7 cars, with 69 complaints received, the agency said.

Stating that 185,000 vehicles were involved in each investigation, the agency said no accidents or injuries had been reported as a result of either problem.—Reuter.

**BRAMMER**

## INTERIM REPORT

**Unaudited Results for the Group  
for the six months ended**

	30 June 1977	30 June 1976	Year to 31 Dec. 1976
	£000	£000	£000
Sales .....	13,340	10,080	21,089
Group Profit before Tax .....	2,004	1,422	3,137
Group Profit after Tax .....	962	682	1,506
Profit before Tax Percentage to Sales .....	15.0%	14.1%	14.9%
Earnings per Share * .....	6.9p	5.1p	11.1p

\* Adjusted for Bonus Issue October 1976, and Bonus element n.p.  
Rights Issue July 1977.

- ★ Continuing progress and growth.
- ★ Sales up 32.3%. Profit before tax up 40.9% on the comparable half year of 1976.
- ★ Earnings per Share up 35.3% on the comparable half year of 1976.
- ★ Successful Rights Issue completed earlier this month.
- ★ The Directors particularly acknowledge the hard work, enthusiasm and ability of both Management and Employees.

*Copies of the Interim Statement available from the Secretary.*

**H. BRAMMER & CO. LIMITED**  
 Station House, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1EP

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The Times index : 202.15+1.79

The FT index : 490.9+6.4

# the markets moved

## THE POUND

			Rank	Rank	
			bids	asks	
5p to 239p	Hawker Siddelay 4p	to 196p			
18p to 62bp	ICI	5p to 412p			
5p to 219p	Thomas Jourdan	6p to 41p			
Electronic	Lafarge	8p to 82p			
no News	Laifre	15p to 48p			
5p to 225p	Lindbrook	11p to 153p			
2p to 117p	Linford	10p to 29p			
10p to 395p	Local Insurance	12p to 372p			
12p to 480p	W H Smith 'A'	15p to 705p			
10p to 105p	Swits	5p to 88p			
15p to 350p	Sun Alliance	5p to 553p			
7p to 552p					
4p to 892p	Myson	11p to 46p			

rose 3 points up at

The effective exchange

index was at 62.3.

rose was \$1.25 an ounce to

was 1.16134 on Tuesday.

SDR-t was 0.56632.

addies: Renter's index was

at 1479.1 (previous 1481.2).

Reports, pages 18 and 19

Equities rose strongly as the

market picked up after the holiday.

Gifts were wanted ahead of

Friday's expected boost in

Britain's official reserves.

Dollar Premium 87.25 per cent

(effective rate 25.31 per cent).

Australia S	1.63	1.57
Angria Sca	30.25	34.25
Belgium Fr	64.75	61.75
Canada S	1.91	1.86
Denmark Kr	11.10	10.55
Finland Mark	2.25	7.90
France Fr	8.80	8.48
Germany Dm	4.24	4.02
Greece Dr	64.50	61.50
Italy L	3.40	7.95
Japan Yen	1555.00	1510.00
Netherlands Gld	4.46	4.24
Norway Kr	9.84	9.44
Portugal Esc	30.90	77.70
S Africa Rand	1.91	1.79
Spain Pes	149.00	144.00
Sweden Kr	8.75	8.35
Switzerland Fr	4.36	4.14
US \$	1.78	1.73
Yugoslavia Dm	36.00	34.00

rates for small denominations, based on

only as supplied, including up Bankers

and 6 months' time, and 6 months' time

Bank International Ltd. and 6 months' time

apply to travellers' cheques and other

foreign currency business

## other pages

Annual Statements:

Interim Statements:

H. Bremner

15

Base Rates Table 19 Electrocomponents Ltd.







BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## A good harvest for stockbrokers too

Friday weather may not have been to celebrate this year, but August at least has proved to be a vintage for stockbrokers. Turnover for the month (August 8-19) totalled £11.859m, a full month turnover, despite the best of days like emerging from the best of levels, albeit below the record of £18.839m.

It is largely thanks to the revival in the gilt market that started second-half of July as interest rates eased. But the equity market has not been too badly either. True, the turnover figure of comfortably over £100m will probably be only the third so far this year, but it will still be holiday month figures since August

widely the benefits of all this have been read is another matter. One or two stockbrokers have, perhaps, had their toe-hold in the gilt market a past year or so, but, by and large, market continues to be heavily led by some half-dozen firms, that the private investor has risen to have many, perhaps, have been more widely spread. But most firms feel it is clutching at to believe that a continuing bull will do much more than make the squeeze they are in anything more sporadically less painful.

Good first quarter figures in May had the sceptics whose hopes had been pressed by poor results from its competitors. That picture is now itself. The three large German have produced depressing figures first half, though Bayer's pre-tax reported yesterday, was only 4.1 per cent at DM624m worldwide. With from the Americans far from nerves, consequently have become a ICI second quarter estimates are downgraded with £145m now expected against the earlier higher £1160m or so.

ICI's advantages over the German the indication they are giving of the world demand is hard to ignore. ICI's in general chemicals, plastics and its may give it an edge, but the advantage of a weak pound is not rather than strengthening.

self, though, talked of maintaining satisfactory performance of the first with its recent £100m bond issue, 10 per cent gain in export volume first quarter gives some indication of its competitive edge.

Underperformed the market by 2 per cent over the past 12 months, profits for the second quarter due to could bring a quick improvement. Up 5p at 412p yesterday, the suggest that some people in the market looking for this and my hunch is it could be right.

Independent gambling groups have reported almost doubled interim profits since racing ahead of the tourist betting recovering strongly from depressed levels of last year.

Case of Ladbroke Group an interim profit of £10.9m is in line with what was made at the time of the rights issue indicates £23m for the year, more than half of which will come from betting. The good news comes at a time when questions are to be raised about the industry. The Royal Commission on gambling should be reporting at the time as Ladbroke announces its full results in March and, though the more threats of a Tote monopoly have been coming down, the Tote Board has been very aggressive line on the need for betting money to find its way into racing.

Higher betting taxes seem to be an extension of the Tote's line looks very much on the cards. There are only 150 off-course Tote shops at the moment out of 14,000 but, a move to establish a Tote in every town, such as is being proposed, could radically alter the pattern of betting in this country.

Ladbroke is currently going for fewer, larger and more up-market shops hoping for a bigger share of a saturated market and improved efficiency. Mr Cyril Stein, the chairman, expects the present proportion of



Mr Cyril Stein, chairman of Ladbroke's betting still contributes around one third of profits.

profits from betting to remain roughly the same with possibly a fall to around 25 per cent next year as diversifications into holidays, retailing and property begin to produce better results.

In the longer-term these diversifications must hold the key to the group's progress rather than the unpredictable and intervention-prone world of casinos and betting shops. But until the end of this year at least the shares at 153p, up 11p yesterday, look reasonable value with a prospective price earnings ratio of 7.2 and a yield of 7 per cent. Continuing support from institutions, some of whom Mr Stein is meeting today, should provide further buoyancy along perhaps with takeover gossip which revives from time to time.

## Sears A tax loss legacy in the US

Such has been the scale of the losses at Sears Holdings' troubled American knitwear subsidiary, Highlander, that their reduction this year and elimination next year had been viewed as of key importance in lifting the group away from the profit plateau where it has languished for the past five years. More recently, though, it has been clear that the drastic surgery of last year—management changes, financial restructuring and plant closures—was not restoring Highlander to health, and Sears has decided to cut its losses. Highlander's assets are being sold to Artrose Inc, in a deal, which will bring nothing to Sears but will transfer Highlander's \$15m of bank borrowings and trade creditors to Artrose. The terminal loss to Sears will be £3m.

For Sears as a group, the United States problem had grown out of all proportion. On turnover of less than £30m, Highlander lost £10m last year, largely as a result of a painful £9m cut back in stocks. In the context of group turnover of £793m, Highlander was a minnow, but its losses were very substantial indeed in relation to group profits of £42.5m.

The losses are not being eliminated in quite the anticipated manner, but Highlander will at least leave some residual benefits for Sears. The company itself has not been sold, only its assets. This means that its £20m of tax losses will remain with Sears to be offset against future profits. At present Sears is not in a position to make very rapid use of these tax losses. Its other main American business, Consolidated Laundries, made a profit last year of only \$750,000, although a further knitwear business, which made \$1m last year, has recently been acquired. So there is a strong case for Sears to expand further in the United States, and its own thinking was evident enough in its recent abortive approach to buy a stake in Avis. That approach has brought a number of other interesting propositions. Sears' way and the group is evidently in a receptive mood.

Delays caused by the assistant air traffic controllers' strike at the weekend were not, in the event, sufficient to cause widespread cancellations or make large-scale refunds to package holidaymakers necessary. But the immediate cost of providing for the thousands of delayed holidaymakers will still make large inroads into tour operators' slender profit margins.

There is, also, the prospect that the adverse publicity and unhappy experience of air passengers this summer will be reflected in their bookings for next year.

Tour operators were reluctant yesterday to put a figure on the cost of the weekend's delays. It appeared to vary greatly, depending partly on how closely the needs of delayed passengers could be dovetailed with those of passengers outward bound.

For instance, a plane load (typically more than 100 people) held abroad could sleep in the hotel beds and eat and drink intended for travellers delayed in Britain, at no extra cost to the tour operator.

But extra payments are needed to cover the cost of, for example, the children's crèche which, in the holidays, can be used by the tour operator.

Mr Stephen Pugh, sales director of Cosmos, describes his company's attitude as "trying to treat passengers as humanely as possible at minimum additional cost".

Since it affects more than 70 per cent of their traffic, the tour operators are being even more severely hit by industrial

## Air delays strike another blow at tour operators' profits

### TOUR OPERATOR PROFITS (30 largest companies)

Year	Turnover	Overall net profit (loss)	Net results as % of turnover
1973	£m	£m	
1974	245.5	(0.4)	(0.2)
1975	226.7	(3.0)	(1.3)
1976	278.3	12.9	4.6
1977	326.1	11.7	3.6

Source: Civil Aviation Authority

action by the Spanish air traffic control staff than they have been by the British assistant air traffic controllers' strike. The effects of aircraft delays are cumulative and the fear is that combined action by French, Spanish and British air traffic control staff could lead to even greater disruption than that experienced so far.

While at this stage no precise figure could be put on the cost of the delays, a spokesman for Thomson Holidays, the biggest of the tour operators, said that it could run into "several hundreds of thousands of pounds, and possibly as much as £1m" for the industry as a whole. This is a substantial figure when total net profits of the industry are of the order of £12m to £13m.

On top of the actual cost comes the likely aftermath of claims by holidaymakers for compensation for their delay. Most tour operators are protected by their exclusion clauses from claims arising from strike action, but these have not been tested in the light of new consumer protection legislation (should the delays be sufficiently extreme to be regarded as a fundamental breach) of the contract between tour operator and holidaymaker.

However, the immediate costs alone are likely to be sufficiently steep to create concern among tour operators' accom-

panies in an already difficult trading year. Industry forecasts are that profits, without the extra cost caused by the delays, will be below last year's level.

Figures from the Civil Aviation Authority, which is responsible for licensing all air travel organizers, show that the 30 largest, responsible for more than three quarters of the business, collectively turned in net profits of £11.7m last year. On turnover of £326.1m this gave a profit to turnover result of 3.6 per cent.

In 1977, while a full assessment has yet to be made, it is expected that profits will not amount to much more than 1 to 2 per cent of turnover. Volume of business, although has not fallen as much as at first feared, is still likely to be below 1976 levels by probably about 10 per cent, though at the same time prompt action in "consolidating", or amalgamating, flights earlier in the year, has brought the total load factors of aircraft up to fairly high levels.

It was reckoned that tour operators needed to fill their aircraft to about 80 to 85 per cent of capacity for the tour to break even. Loadings above that level yielded the profit. While, at present pricing, the break-even level has nudged upwards, depending on the tour operator, to 87 or 90 per cent, some companies are operating flights at well above that level.

Thomson, for example, says that it has been achieving 96 and 98 per cent loads in July and August and Cosmos is claiming 95 and 96 per cent loads. But much depends on the loads carried during the "shoulder" periods of spring and autumn.

Much also depends on the prices charged to achieve the high loadings. The spate of cheap packages with minimal accommodation launched by Cosmos, Thomson, Laker and others were intended to take up any excess capacity left over from the main tours. As yet there is not sufficient evidence to show how widely they have been used.

But Cosmos's "Cheapies" bookings, although up from 6,235 for the first eight months of 1976 to almost 10,000 this year, are likely to remain a small proportion of the total of more than 300,000 air holidays sold by the company.

On top of the revenue lost through cheap air ticket sales comes the cost of the discounts on standard packages. Lavishly promoted earlier in the year when bookings were sluggish. Given stable conditions, a tour operator can afford to discount by £20 or £30 to win the extra 5 per cent of capacity, and still stay in profit, but already this has been far from a stable year and some companies are, no doubt, regretting their discounts.

Probably the biggest single impact on profits was the cost of the no-surcharge guarantees also offered early in the year to lure bookings. To balance the expense of buying currency forward—Cosmos alone says it made a forward commitment amounting to £25m—the tour operators were gambling on both an improvement in the exchange rate of sterling and a devaluation of the peseta, the main holiday currency.

The problem is that the

ramble only partly paid off. The industry had been hoping for a peseta devaluation in March. At the time the devaluation actually took place, in mid-July, the gains had been more than wiped out by inflation, which pushed up hotel prices in Spain.

In fact, some tour operators have been struggling to avoid passing on hotel surcharges to clients. While the no-surcharge guarantees, overseas inflation rates and the drop in volume are the main causes of erosion of profits, a fourth factor has been the lateness of so much of this year's bookings. Traditionally, tour operators have used the cash flow generated from early payments from holidaymakers and credit from hotels and airlines to help finance their activities. But as bookings, and hence payments, become later and suppliers tighten up on the availability of credit, so the tour operators' cash flow has been squeezed.

However, while profit levels have shrunk, they are still likely to remain above the disastrous rates of 1974 (the year in which Court Line failed), when the industry collectively lost £3m.

The real worry at present is about the effect of lack of growth in the volume of sales. After three years of decline, 1977, at perhaps 3.4 million or so inclusive tours, is still well below the peak of almost five million in 1973.

Although scheduled air travel is well on the way to recovery, charter traffic—mainly used for leisure travel—continues to go down. While the scramble for volume at any price which took place among tour operators in the late 1960s came to an abrupt halt with the failure of Court Line, some improvement in growth is needed for margins to come at their historically low levels.

Patricia Tisdall

Alec Nove

## Russia still burdened by a huge trade deficit with the West

After incurring a record deficit in its trade with the West in 1975, it is not surprising that last year the Soviet Union's trade with the West was again in deficit, while the steep rise in imports of the past few years was greatly slowed.

Even so, the visible trade deficit with the West remains at almost exactly 3,000m roubles, which is not far short of \$4,000m (about £2,343m), so Soviet indebtedness has continued to mount.

The surplus with socialist countries and the third world are of little help, since the currencies in question are not convertible. In the case of developing countries, much of the surplus consists, as usual, of sales of unknown commodities—presumably arms.

Soviet exports to socialist countries rose, primarily because of price increases, though it should be noted that the Soviet Union still sells oil

much cheaper to its Comecon allies than to the West. Exports to China have suddenly doubled (though they were still well below the level that imports from Cuba have now exceeded exports for two consecutive years).

British exports to the Soviet Union have risen much more slowly than Soviet sales here; the biggest rise in British exports was of chemical machinery, while Soviet sales of timber, furs and especially oil rose sharply. Indeed oil sales rose from 1.5 million tons to more than 4 million tons. Oil was also the main cause of the large rise in Soviet exports to France and Italy. Also noteworthy was the large increase in sales of natural gas to West Germany, Italy, France and Austria, a trend likely to continue.

The enormous Soviet deficits with the United States, Canada, Australia and Argentina are due in large part to the very

large purchases of grain that followed the 1975 harvest failure. After the 1976 record harvest the pattern will be different. Soviet purchases of American machinery also rose.

As to the commodity pattern, the most impressive export performance was undoubtedly that of oil from 130 to 143 million tons (including profits), and natural gas. The persistent reports to the effect that the Soviet Union will become a net oil importer have proved quite unfounded so far, though no doubt the supply situation is tight and the demands of Comecon allies have not been fully met.

Sales of cars rose by nearly 20 per cent; despite long queues of customers at home, nearly a third of output is exported. An interesting and possibly significant development in the Soviet foreign trade returns has been the elimination by censorship of any reference to specific non-ferrous metals; only the total for all such metals is given. Figures for copper, lead, zinc, etc. appeared regularly hitherto.

On the import side, one notes particularly large increases in imports of equipment for the metallurgical, electrochemical, chemical and timber and paper industries. Surprisingly, imports of machinery for oil processing fell sharply. There was also a small decline in purchases of ships. Imports of pipe have reached close to 3 million tons, reflecting ambitious oil and gas pipelaying programmes.

SOVIET TRADE BY COUNTRY				
(Millions of roubles)				
	1975		1976	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
TOTAL ALL COUNTRIES	24,034	26,671	28,022	28,731
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES	14,564	13,968	16,448	15,104
of which :				
Bulgaria	2,060	1,931	2,277	2,189
Czechoslovakia	2,019	1,682	2,320	2,223
E. Germany	2,850	2,643	3,218	2,779
Hungary	1,858	1,618	1,771	1,721
Poland	2,447	2,406	2,750	2,485
Cuba	1,141	1,448	1,351	1,521
China	93	108	180	135
DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES	6,140	9,704	7,834	10,821
of which :				
Finland	918	837	890	959
France	496	801	774	923
Great Britain	591	368	825	407
Italy	638	789	1,069	709
West Germany	858	1,919	1,069	1,940
Japan	669	1,253	748	1,372
Canada	32	439	42	499
US	137	1,482	199	2,008
Australia	2	327	3	407
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	3,310	2,999	3,740	2,805
of which :				
India	292	383	271	376
Iraq	274	325	342	373
Malaysia	1	101	4	103
Syria	99	69	138	97
Algeria	112	135	131	59
Egypt	262	448	200	331
Nigeria	24	84	24	27
Argentina	11	294	8	225
Brazil	93	303	76	369

No doubt because of the burden of huge grain purchases (20,000,000 tons) on the balance of payments, imports of tea, coffee and meat all fell. Imports of a number of consumer goods showed a small decline, though cotton fabric imports rose, purchases from India alone exceeding 70 million metres. All in all, a better year for Soviet trade, but the balance of payments does not look healthy yet.

The author is in the Department of International Economic Studies at Glasgow University.

## Business Diary: CPSA's Thomas • Plastics with a past

Trades Union Congress closer, Ken Thomas, secretary of the Civil Services Association, wondering whether the disruption caused by traffic control members him any good in next general council election. affable Welshman, was pipped at the post by Tony Christopher, over both the general seat and the general seat of the inland Staff Federation on

Ken Thomas, gifted Bill Kendall, never got it because the biggest Civil Service union was always suspected of being too much like a trade union. Now that collective bargaining is fashionable once more maybe Thomas will benefit by the votes of workers fed up with pay restraint.



Ken Thomas

John Hayes, Mike Butler and Paul Triton may be in on the ground floor as a new collecting craze is born. All three have had a hand in a display of plastics and antiques which British Industrial Plastics is organising at the International Plastics and Rubber Exhibition in the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham between September 15 and 23.

Indeed, Butler says, one Alexander Parkes exhibited a material called Parkesine at the Great Exhibition of 1851. As celluloid, the material was commercially developed by Daniel Spill in the 1870s.

The earliest pieces of synthetic plastic were made by the late 18th century Parkesine, including a medal from the Marine Assurance Company of Hull and London.

Hayes, Butler and Triton have borrowed objects from BIP, the Plastics and Rubber Institute and from the few private collectors, such as former BIP director Walter Swallow.

They also went hunting in antique shops. Butler, for instance, found a pre-1914 War celloscope acetate tray at 75p. Antiques magazines, he reports, are beginning to show interest in this new—or not so new—field.

About 1,500 of Shalkee Corporation's 100,000 worldwide distributors are in London this week for a sales convention, costing \$1m.

They will—among other things—join in company songs like "I Can, You Can, We Can" the Shalkee Way. "I confirm their faith in the company's range of organic and biodegradable products, apply the Golden Rule ('Do unto others as you would have them do unto you') and use Thoughtfulness," as advocated by Dr Forrest C. Shalkee, the messianic founder.

exchange. Gary Shansby, Shalkee's president, admits that he had misgivings about joining the company two years ago. He discovered, however, that the products—ranging from household cleaners, and food supplements to an organic toothpaste—were good; the direct sales operation was generous and fair, and the evangelistic style, far from being a "gimmick", really worked.

Moreover, it is working in Britain. Shalkee now has offices and warehouses and a sales force of more than 1,000. Now, the operation here breaks even—worldwide turnover is some \$200,000m—but Shansby sees Britain as a potential growth area.

"The economic situation could help us. People may be looking for ways to supplement their incomes and, if they are not able to eat as well as previously, they may wish to supplement their diets."

Among the 240 pages of statistical information crammed in the newly published General Household Survey, 1974 is a table entitled "Reasons for leaving last job by sex". Whatever popular mythology may say, sex is evidently not the most popular way to go. Of the males involved, 46 per cent went because they were sacked or made redundant and 14 per cent because they became ill, although 15 per cent went for "domestic reasons, pregnancy or other."

A poll at the J. Paul Getty Museum at Malibu, near Los Angeles, shows that the most popular painting there is not

one of the works of those old favourites Rembrandt, Rubens or Degas, but the "Spring" of the Anglo-Dutch artist Alma-Tadema. And thereby hangs a tale.

The museum bought the painting, which is of a Roman procession in honour of St Cerealia, in 1972, for a then record price for an Alma-Tadema.

Unknown to the museum's agents, they were up against the television producer, Allan Funt, who is associated with what I believe to be possibly the worst television programme ever devised, *Candid Camera*.

Funt, having been advised that Alma-Tadema was the world's worst painter, set about collecting him until his office and apartment in New York were lined with Alma-Tademas.

Since 1972, however, Funt has been obliged to part with many of his pictures, although some of them, smaller than "Spring", have fetched prices higher than that paid by the Getty museum in 1972.

It is peculiarly fitting that Alma-Tadema should be so popular in Los Angeles—Hollywood—since the painter's composition and colours influenced many directors of the early cinema. "Spring" itself looks like an elaborate rendering of a scene from Cecil B. de Mille.

## electrocomponents limited

**Bigger market share and wider product range during 1976/77 brings another record year**

**Turnover increased 44% to £22.8m**

**Exports up by 31.5% to £1.2m**

**Profits up from £2.85m to £4.54m**

**Earnings per share increased from 13.64p to 21.75p**

**Dividends for year 4.5256p—the maximum permitted**

"Results for 1976/77 are quite exceptional. Keen prices and outstanding stock availability were again important factors in our success. The current year shows further progress, indicating even better results to come."

R. A. MARLER, Chairman

Copies of the full Report and Accounts for year to 31st March 1977 can be obtained from the Secretary, Electrocomponents Limited, 13-17 Epworth Street, London, EC2P 2HA.

**Britain's biggest electronic components distributor**



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Gilts upturn mirrored in leading equities

The market is on its way up again. Whether the FT Index will hit the 500 target in this account remains to be seen but, now that the bank holiday is over, buyers are returning.

Business has been somewhat slow to revive—bargains yesterday were still at a near basement level of 4,852—but many of the leaders were emphatically back in favour.

Gilt-edged securities, too, made solid headway with the help of the market's confidence in a major rise in official reserves when the statistics are unveiled at the end of the week. Gains of a ½ were recorded in medium while long went somewhat better with rises of as much as ½.

Wood Bros rose 3p to 107p. A fortnight ago they were only 90p. Bastow, in contrast to swimwear is a Marks & Spencer supplier, as in Nottingham Manufacturing which has built up its Bastow stake to just under 30 per cent. Figures for the year to June 30, due soon could show a rise from £760,000 to £1.2m or so, or enough to keep the shares on the boil. Marks suppliers have been reporting well recently.

The upturn in Government stocks was mirrored in equities. After a slight relapse at noon, the market demonstrated its ability to absorb any setback and, despite some profit taking, the FT Index powered on to a 6.4 rise to 490.9 at the close for a 3.2 climb on the account so far. After so much desultory

trading last week, 500 and beyond suddenly seems not so far away.

The outstanding share of the day was undoubtedly Beccam Group. The dividend hoist is not far from buyers' thoughts and the shares have already withstood profit-taking on this score. Uppermost on dealers' minds yesterday, however, was the rumour of an attractive share-splitting operation. The group officially denied that it had taken any steps in this direction but made it clear that the exercise has its attractions. The shares jumped 18p to 620p.

But Beccam's pre-eminence was seriously rivalled in other quarters and, all in all, the officially sanctioning of a new firm of stockbrokers, Kett, East, Newton & Co, came at an auspicious moment.

Flourens, helped by press comment, came up strongly with a 15p rise to 350p and other leaders followed suit. Glaxo

put on 7p to 592p while Unilever added 8p to 522p.

ICL, of course, will help to set the tone when it reports second-quarter earnings tomorrow. The figures are expected to look very favourable but it seems that several jobbers are more optimistic that the market as a whole and have gone long of the stock. The shares climbed 5p to 412p.

Further consideration of last week's somewhat surprisingly buoyant results from Associated Portland Cement gave the shares another 5p rise to 239p.

Decca continues to feature as a bid stock. Rumours abound although the identity of any bidder, the likely timing of any approach and its chance of success are still shrouded in the mists of buyers' imaginations. Nonetheless, the "A" shares were hoisted another 10p to 395p.

The High Street this autumn

is widely expected to enjoy a buying spree. The Chancellor is expected to ease the purse strings and great things are hoped at the forthcoming sales. Scottish & Universal Investments was a firm spot with a 3p gain to 88p.

Boots went even better with an 8p hike to 219p while W. H. Smith "A" capped the lot and advanced 15p to 705p. Overall, a happy time for the retailers.

There is little evidence, as yet, that enthusiasm has spilled over in the "second liners". Several stocks did shine, however, with the help of weekend press tips. Notable among these were Ega Holdings where the shares advanced to 105p on conjecture of what the foreshadowed bid, if it comes, will comprise. Common Brothers stood out in shippings and rose to 225p after the stake held by Swan Hunter had been highlighted. Lawtex was another favourite with a 12p gain to 48p. The

bid action that did emerge was the approach by Derritron for British Electronic whose shares jumped 6p to 28p.

Insurance issues were mostly ahead where changed with Sun Alliance and Eagle Star to the fore after rises of 5p to 525p and 4p to 474p respectively. But property counters and banks were generally quiet.

Crane Fruehauf is now, as indicated here last week, open to a second bid from the US Fruehauf Corporation. Crane's shares hardened a further 1p to 55p yesterday. Those who favour them argue that they have only 5p or at most 10p of downside in them even after a good rise, and that the Americans may be forced to offer at least 60 and maybe 65p. Crane would duly have to make a good defence (profits this year could rise from £15m to £3m) and quite possibly turn to another group if the US concern looked menacing.

Companies reporting yesterday mostly went well. Ladbroke Group was right up to best unofficial forecasts and the shares improved 1p to 153p. Linford, which is due to report today, added 7p to 290p and dealers were looking ahead to the Thomas Jourdan figures by putting the shares up 6p to 41p.

Very few stocks suffered, but Mysen reacted a further 1p to 46p as a result of last week's gloomy statement and BP was a depressed spot in a mixed oil patch and fell 4p to 892p.

## CRA stays cautious after strong first-half

By Desmond Quigley

Consolidated net earnings of Consair Rio de Janeiro, the Australian arm of the United Kingdom mining house Rio Tinto-Zinc, rose 54 per cent from £428.5m to £664.4m (about £28.2m) in the first-half to end June.

The increase was achieved despite a rise of only 15 per cent to \$A515m in the value of external sales.

The interim dividend has been increased from 3.5 cents to 4.5 cents a share. The company, in its interim statement, states that the prospects for the remainder of the year must be viewed with caution because world metal markets are generally showing signs of weakness.

A major boost for CRA, in which RTZ has a 72.6 per cent interest, came from its 45 per cent owned Consolco which also reported its half-year results yesterday which showed a net profit increase from \$A8.46m to \$A20m. The interim dividend has been increased from 2.75 cents to 5 cents a share.

CRA has repeated that Mary Kathleen Uranium's finances "remain extremely critical" and revealed that yesterday it agreed to advance a further \$A2.8m in short-term loans to MKU. The amount advanced would allow CRA to exercise an option to purchase any available U308 if it so desires under an agreement reached earlier this year.

## US insurance boom gives stimulus to London Utd Invs

By Alison Mitchell

The growth of American insurance business available to the London market has provided a healthy filly to the profits of London United Investments.

The investment holding company, which deals almost exclusively with insurance and security business, has seen its results more than double in the first six months of this year. And Sir George Bolton, chairman, is confident that there is still a lot more to come.

He tells shareholders that full year profits will show a "substantial increase" over the 1976 total of £1.7m.

In the half-year to June 30, "Loonies" as the group is familiarly known, made a pre-tax profit of £1.24m, compared with £498,000 previously. Turnover rose from £3.3m to £5.9m in the period.

All divisions, including the group's property offshore Brighton, Essex, contributed to the improvement but the bulk of the upturn came from the insurance side.

H. S. Weavers (Underwriting) Agencies, which operates in the United States casualty business market saw an upturn both in the volume of insurance and the amounts involved. "This United States business continues to grow in a profitable manner", says the chairman, "and because a member of the underwriting syndicate, also stepped up its contribution in the six months. Because of the increased business being handled, the capital of Walbrook has been increased by £500,000 to £3m. Total capital reserves now amount to £3.98m.

More and more of the group's resources are being concentrated on insurance related activities. Since its 1972 purchase of H. S. Weavers the group has been building up this side of the business.

In view of the confident forecast of the chairman, the directors expect to pay a maximum final dividend of 3.18p gross.

## KLK buys more of Yule Catto

Fears that Yule Catto's failure to work out a partnership with Kuala Lumpur Kepong last May would mean that KLK's 20 per cent stake might cast a shadow on the group's future.

KLK, registered in Britain but domiciled in Malaysia for tax, has told Yule Catto through N. M. Rothchild that it has bought a further 75,000 shares, bringing its holding to 22.6 per cent.

Yule is a rubber, oil palm and plastics group with a marina at Cobh's Quay in Poole and a property portfolio. Its recent talks with KLK reflected Malaysia's New Economic Policy and its requirements to inject Malaysian capital into the group.

Meanwhile Yule now reports that profits for the year to October 31 should easily beat July's forecast of a second six months "turning good" as the £943,000 before tax made in the first half year. In the same months the year before they were only £377,000.

For good measure Lord Catto and his colleagues add: "The group is excellently placed for expansion both in the United Kingdom and overseas." Even so the shares rested at 55p.

## Brammer quickens growth rate

By Ashley Druker

In line with the buoyant trading reported at the time of the rights issue early last month, H. Brammer emerges from the opening half to June 30 confirming the continuing progress and growth envisaged in the 1976 annual report. Sales increased by 32.3 per cent to £13.34m and pre-tax profit by 40.9 per cent to £2m—the first time this barrier has been passed in a half year. Trading profit rose 30.5 per cent, indicating that pressure on margins has been contained. This was achieved in spite of prevailing inflationary and competitive conditions, says Mr J. E. Head, Brammer's managing director.

The attributable for the latest half rose from £682,000 to £962,000 and earnings a share from 5.1p to 6.5p. The interim dividend is a same-again 2.1p gross. In July, with the rights issue, Brammer forecast a total dividend of 4.2p, up from 4.75p gross to 6.46p.

In the preceding 12 months the group put on 25 per cent to £3.14m pre-tax. Having withdrawn from automotive component distribution its business now focuses on the production of replacement bearings, power transmission products and other components.

## Derritron approach for Brit Electronics likely

Electronic equipment manufacturer and marketer Derritron, may make an offer of over 23p a share for British Electronic Controls.

In July a company owned by the three executive directors of BEC made a £875,000 bid for BEC, offering shareholders 23p a share and the possible Derritron take-over announced by Seton Trust, would come under this scheme of arrangement.

Appropriate proposals would also be made to the holders of the convertible unsecured loan stock.

Subject to the outcome of certain negotiations by Derritron, full particulars of the proposed offer will be announced by next Monday.

In the six months to February 11 last, BEC made a pre-tax loss of £36,000.

## Samuelson move in mopping-up

The mystery surrounding the fate of the minority shareholders in Samuelson Film Service appears to be clearing slightly.

Following an announcement in December that the Samuelson family interests were thinking of bidding for the 20 per cent of the group they did not already hold, there has been little evident action on the subject.

However the directors disclosed to shareholders yesterday that they are applying to the Inland Revenue for a revenue clearance, which may be necessary to finance such a mopping-up operation. As such, the present uncertainties should be resolved, one way or the other, over the next couple of months.

## Interest rate low point early in 1978

Short-term interest rates should continue to fall for the rest of the year, reaching a low

point in the first quarter of 1978, according to stockbrokers James Capel's latest survey of the institutional flow of funds.

Gilt and equity markets are expected to continue to benefit from this trend for some months yet, but the brokers give a warning that the size of the Government funding requirement in 1978-79 will bring the decline in interest rates thereafter. The degree of any reversal will depend on the development of government economic policy.

## Double-up filip by Coral's Centre hotels

Centre Hotels (Cranston), which was recently taken over by Coral Leisure, the bingo, bookmaking and casino group, following a £16m bid, has doubled pre-tax profits to £1.1m in the year to April 3. Turnover jumped from £16.2m to £23.8m. It is expected that pre-tax profits for the current year will be appreciably higher.

Although Centre Hotels results were not included in Coral's interim figures, they are expected to give filip to those for the full year.

## Gresham Inv set for further growth

A year of further consolidation leaves Gresham Investment Trust with increased pre-tax profits of £716,000 for the 12 months to March 31 last compared with a previous £675,000. However Mr Peter Wreford, chairman, points out that had the attributable earnings of companies where the group has a 20 per cent plus interest been included, group pre-tax profit would have been boosted to just over £1m.

Gresham is now in a strong financial position to take advantage of an increase in business and, barring accidents, Mr Wreford predicts a further increase in profits in the current year.

## Elec'components open well

Further progress is reported in the current year by Electrocomponents after "quite exceptional" results for the 12 months to end-March. Mr R. A. Marier, chairman, says his board is confident that full-term results will once again be an "enviable pleasure" to report.

This buoyancy is underpinned by planned investment in extra premises, further computerization and higher investment in stock. Meanwhile, the board is to recommend an ex-gratia payment of £34,000 to Mr D. Turner, who continues as an agent for the next six months. This follows a board ruling on compulsory retirement at aged 60.

## Briefly

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authority rate remains unchanged at 84 per cent. Those seeking funds include Edinburgh, Sheffield, Strathclyde and Leicestershire.

## HAWKER-GARDNER

Offer on behalf of Hawker Siddeley to buy L. Gardner says open until further notice. Share alternative closed yesterday.

## CROUCH GROUP

Chairman reports in annual statement that building division of group "maintained profit earning" but quarrying company made large loss. Loss deemed exceptional. Company well organized to deal with tough trading.

## How to clear that expansion bottleneck, without upsetting your finance director



A successful and expanding company often reaches a stage when, for want of finance, it is restrained by an expansion bottleneck. Sometimes you just know you could be bigger and better if only you could clear that bottleneck. You cannot go on passing up major opportunities for growth forever, so something has to change.

However, changes cost money, and where money is concerned your finance director often has the last word.

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Medium Term Loans from  
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US insurance gives stimulus to London...

KLK buys more of Yule Catto

# FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Swedish, Toyota sellent

12 per cent to billion worth the sales...  
Wolfsburg to Tokyo...  
Yen 116.7 billion...  
7.3 per cent to 2.64

## Brand prices indicators

Brand	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
1992	100	0
1993	100	0
1994	100	0
1995	100	0
1996	100	0
1997	100	0
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2017	100	0
2018	100	0
2019	100	0
2020	100	0
2021	100	0
2022	100	0
2023	100	0
2024	100	0
2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Recent Issues

Company	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
1992	100	0
1993	100	0
1994	100	0
1995	100	0
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2016	100	0
2017	100	0
2018	100	0
2019	100	0
2020	100	0
2021	100	0
2022	100	0
2023	100	0
2024	100	0
2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Florida Nat Bank

Miami—The directors of Florida National Bank have agreed to buy \$42m of stock in the bank's holding company from the Alfred I. Dupont estate.

## Dutch bid possible

Amsterdam—Koninklijke Frisdranken Industrie Winters Bv of Maarheze, Noord-Brabant, said that it is holding talks with Beestine Foods of Chicago buying a majority stake in the Dutch soft drinks group.

## Business appointments

**Mr R. Pritchard becomes BAT director**  
Mr R. J. Pritchard has been made a director of British-American Tobacco.

## Commodities

COPPER was slightly higher...  
SUGAR was lower...  
COFFEE was lower...

## UK metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange...  
Copper up 10p...  
Zinc down 10p...

## Recent Issues

Company	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
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2019	100	0
2020	100	0
2021	100	0
2022	100	0
2023	100	0
2024	100	0
2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Foreign Exchange

Nervous conditions prevailed throughout yesterday's foreign exchange session...  
Sterling up 1.5p...

## Spot Position of Sterling

Market	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
1992	100	0
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1994	100	0
1995	100	0
1996	100	0
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2021	100	0
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2023	100	0
2024	100	0
2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Forward Levels

Market	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
1992	100	0
1993	100	0
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2020	100	0
2021	100	0
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2023	100	0
2024	100	0
2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Gold

Market	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
1992	100	0
1993	100	0
1994	100	0
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2021	100	0
2022	100	0
2023	100	0
2024	100	0
2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Discount market

The Bank of England gave help on a very large scale to relieve a shortage of funds on the London Stock Exchange...  
Treasury bills up 10p...

## Money Market Rates

Market	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
1992	100	0
1993	100	0
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2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Company	Price	Change
1983	100	0
1984	100	0
1985	100	0
1986	100	0
1987	100	0
1988	100	0
1989	100	0
1990	100	0
1991	100	0
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2025	100	0
2026	100	0
2027	100	0
2028	100	0
2029	100	0
2030	100	0

## Wall Street

New York Aug 30—Stocks moved slightly lower in early New York Stock Exchange trading after opening mixed...  
Dow Jones down 100 points...

## Coffee down 6 cents

New York—Coffee futures moved lower after a sharp rise in the previous session...  
Coffee down 6 cents...

## Commodity Prices



## Stock Exchange Prices

## Buyers return

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Begin, Aug 22. Dealings End, Sept 2. § Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 13

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



Positions Vacant

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

For the Roman Catholic Diocesan Finance Office, based in the Diocesan Financial Secretary's Office, the successful candidate will be responsible for the control of a small accounts staff. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please apply in confidence with curriculum vitae and details of previous employment to:

FINANCIAL SECRETARY,  
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,  
AMBROSE AVENUE, LONDON, S.W.1

GENERAL VACANCIES

Qualitative Administrative Assistants

Notting Hill Gate

Leading International firm of Consulting Civil Engineers and Architects have the following vacancies:

**Personnel (Training) Assistant-No. 1573**  
To assist in the organisation of in-house courses and bookings for courses and conferences; to run training programmes for non-staff; to advise on effective writing and presentation; to search for and collate material for answering all educational and training queries.

**Assistant in the Secretary's Office-No. 1577**  
To prepare material for and advise upon offers of agreements negotiated with Clients by Project Managers and to take custody of these. To assist in the negotiations for Bank Guarantees and to prepare for correspondence related to ECOD cover.

These appointments demand a disciplined and organised mind and the effective use of English. Candidates must be graduates in a relevant discipline, preferably Technology ideally for the Secretary's Office. Some direct or related post graduate experience will be looked for in Candidates aged 24 or over but applications from recent graduates with good degrees and a leaning towards the above will be considered.

Very competitive salaries are associated with staff benefits including non-contributory fund, P.P.P., annual bonus from profits and pension with house purchase and improvements for shared employees.

Candidates should apply in writing enclosing a comprehensive CV quoting the appropriate Reference Number to:

RAMSAY ESQ.  
Director of Personnel  
Hill Halcrow & Partners  
One House  
Notting Hill Gate  
W11 3JX

Chelsea

Seniority exists for a representative at senior level in Chelsea with our sales director expanding markets, home and overseas, through architects, interior designers, etc. Salary and expenses are commensurate with experience and ability. Excellent opportunity for alert, ambitious, person.

Apply in first instance to:

G. E. SANDER MIRROR CO., LONDON  
TEL. 01-226 8881

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IRAN

NATIONAL IRANIAN COPPER INDUSTRIES COMPANY

Has vacancies at its SAR-CHESHMEH Complex. One of the largest Copper mines in the World.

1. Director of Training: Post graduate, with 8-10 years' experience in management training in a large industrial concern and specialist in training methodology.
2. Curriculum Development Specialist: Post graduate, with experience in general instruction of materials development including job Data/performance requirements identification. Experience in technical skill training environment preferred.
3. Training Specialist: Minimum five years' experience in technical training accreditation. Experience in identification of training needs, programming, instruction methodology, test and program evaluation essential.
4. Employee Development and Upgrading Specialist: Minimum five years' experience in identification of training needs, career path planning development management and supervision. Technical training background preferred.
5. Language Training Specialist: M.A. plus Toefl/Teal accreditation. Seven years' experience in teaching English as second language plus two years of language training program management.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Qualified candidates interested to work in IRAN please apply enclosing detailed resume and salary expected to the following address:

Mr. A. R. Ahmadi,  
Director of Human Resources,  
National Iranian Copper Industries Co.  
5 Elizabeth II BLVD,  
Tehran 14,  
IRAN

Honours Graduates TRAINED IN STATISTICS

Influence the nation's policy makers

Academically we ask for a degree with 1st or 2nd class honours in statistics, or a relevant post-graduate qualification. Alternatively you should have some relevant experience and an approved professional qualification in statistics. And you should normally be aged under 27.

Members of the Government Statistical Service work in many different Departments of State. But they share a common function. They use their skills to collect, analyse and interpret information to help formulate government policy. Joining the Service as part of a team, providing the statistical facts essential to specific studies.

Your starting salary will be at least £3,330. Promotions depend on individual performance and within 8 years you could be on a salary range rising to £8,435; there are further prospects to £11,650 and above. Inner London salaries quoted. These appointments are pensionable and may be permanent or for a fixed period.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 28 September, 1977), write to: Civil Service Commission, Alexander Link, Ranelagh, London, W8 3LN, or telephone Ranelagh (0293) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

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Accountancy Personnel Ltd.

CJA

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH  
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576  
Telex No. 887374

A Challenging new appointment with considerable growth prospects—scope to become Project Manager within 12 months

CJA

N.W. ENGLAND

EXPANDING MEDIUM SIZED CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING CONTRACTOR

PROJECT MANAGER-DESIGNATE

£8,000-£12,000 + CAR

EXPANDING MEDIUM SIZED CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING CONTRACTOR

Due to continued expansion, we invite applications from Civil Engineers (ideally MICE), male or female, aged 30-36, who will have managed, over the past 5 years, projects on site of up to £25 million and must be experienced in the management of concrete works. Reporting initially to the Project Manager, the successful Candidate will be responsible for all aspects of administration of a multi-million pound project, involving resource allocation, liaison between the Client and Consulting Engineers and Industrial Relations. Essential qualities are a thorough yet diplomatic manner, drive and well developed commercial reflexes. Initial salary negotiable £8,000-£12,000 + car; contributory pension scheme; free life insurance; assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Ref. PMD 3803. Our Client also has vacancies for less qualified candidates, with a similar background of experience, to work on other projects in the North of England. Ref. APM3804. Applications in strict confidence under the appropriate reference to the Managing Director:

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON ASSOCIATES (MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS) LIMITED,  
35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH  
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576 Telex: 887374

SENIOR CONSUMER

MARKET RESEARCH

EXECUTIVE

A leading UK manufacturer with a turnover of over £150m a year requires a Senior Consumer Market Research Executive. The Company conducts its market research through an in-house research group and its own national interviewing field force and computer bureau facilities. The job involves the application of a range of research techniques to diverse marketing problems. It is therefore likely that at least 3 years' first hand research experience, acquired with a consumer research agency, will be necessary for the level of experience required. The preferred candidate will be 35-45 years of age have a degree in statistics or a related discipline and have verbal presentation skills with confidence in marketing management at senior levels. Starting salary is negotiable within the range of £5,000 and assistance towards relocation expenses is available if required.

Court Staff Consultancy

Chancery House, 72-78 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Roehampton Experimental Station

STATISTICIAN

to lead a small team providing statistical services to the Royal Horticultural Society's experimental research workers in developing countries. The position will also be responsible for the statistical analysis of data from the Society's experimental research workers in developing countries. The position will also be responsible for the statistical analysis of data from the Society's experimental research workers in developing countries.

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# MALAYSIA

a Special Report to mark the twentieth anniversary of independence



A girl making Raleigh bicycles in Kuala Lumpur; a farmer ploughing around a modern obstruction in his paddy field; and a Kelabit girl from the upper Baram valley in north-east Sarawak, wearing the traditional ear-rings.

## New assurance in third decade

by Peter Hazelhurst

In an era of tension and uncertainty in the 1950s, Malaysia enters its third decade with a new and a spirit of self-assurance.

It is not the case two decades ago when 12 million people, apprehensive of the fall of Vietnam, a sharp decline in aid and a wave of refugees on the western coast certainly caused concern at the time.

Encouraged by a succession of successes in a Malaysian territories—remnants of which touched off a state of emergency in 1948—moved out of sanctuaries in Thailand to step up an offensive on the Malaysian peninsula.

Confronted by a sudden spate of bombing attacks, assassinations and a sharp increase in terrorist recruiting activities, Government forces were left on the defensive.

At the same time both domestic and foreign investment in the private sector declined while the country's real economic growth rate fell to 2.2 per cent.

But apprehension has given way to a buoyant mood of optimism since the liberal and unobtrusive Daruk Hussein Onn succeeded the late Tun Abdul Razak as Prime Minister in January last year.

Scattered units of the Communist Party of Malaya in the economy during the past 18 months has also and its two breakaway groups—the Marxist Leninists and the Revolutionary Faction—with a total strength of 3,000 men, are on the run again. Terrorism has abated during the past 18 months since the army and the police launched a massive combing operation across the northern provinces of the western peninsula.

The insurgents suffered further setbacks this year when Thai and Malaysian troops moved into the southern provinces of Thailand to destroy communist camps and arms dumps in hitherto safe border areas.

A dramatic improvement in the economy during the past 18 months has also provided the country with a new sense of confidence.

With the launching of the third five-year plan last year, the most ambitious investment programme undertaken in the country, the real growth rate for the year exceeded all expectations, rising to a record level of 11.3 per cent. Per capita income, which declined by 6.5 per cent two years ago, rose by 16 per cent last year to \$US720.

Inflation was held down to less than 3 per cent. The country also attained a record surplus of \$509m in its overall balance of payments last year.

The Bank of Negara Malaysia, the state bank, also paints an optimistic picture for the future. Projections indicate, however, that export earnings will decline and Malaysia will wind up with an estimated surplus of £26m and a slightly lower growth rate this year.

But there can be little doubt that Malaysia's economic prospects look bright.

It is the world's largest producer of rubber and tin and is a net exporter of oil.

Unlike many other developing nations in Asia, Malaysia has vast natural resources and a fairly small population. It also has a political system which provides for stable and smooth change.

The ruling National Front—an alliance of 11 parties representing the country's three major races, Malay, Chinese and Indian—is a cohesive political entity. At present the Front, dominated by its major partner, the United Malay National Organisation (UMNO), controls 144 of the 154 seats in the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives).

There is little doubt that the National Front, supported by two other major partners, the Malaysian Chinese Association and the Malaysian Indian Congress and eight minor parties in west and east Malaysia, will be returned to office for another five-year term next year if, as expected, the Prime Minister calls a general election.

But most Malaysians are aware that they have not solved their most urgent and essential problem, the dominant racial antagonisms which touched off riots between the Chinese community and the economically backward but larger Malay community on the western peninsula in 1969.

On the surface, tension has subsided during the intervening years since the Government introduced urgent measures in the early 1970s to provide the backward "bumiputras," sons of the soil, with special privileges in employment, business and education.

But as the law begins to be felt, subdued discontent is beginning to well up among the two minority communities, particularly the Chinese.

Under existing legislation Chinese and foreign investors are required to distribute 30 per cent of their shares to Malays by 1990. All sections of industry and commerce are also required to employ a fixed ratio of Malays at all levels of management—regardless of qualifications of Chinese or Indian applicants.

Less qualified Malays are automatically promoted above the heads of Chinese and Indians in the Government and the armed services while the large public corporation, PERNAS, supported by Government shares, has acquired control of a large section of the economy on behalf of the Malays.

Most forward-looking Chinese admit that urgent measures are certainly required to assist a backward majority community which controlled only 2 per cent of the economy five years ago.

But the bulk of the country's 3,800,000 Chinese are undoubtedly beginning to feel the brunt of some of the more extreme measures of Malay nationalism.

The impact is felt most in education where Chinese and Indian students have to contend with formidable barriers of discrimination. English, hitherto a common language, is being replaced by Malay as a medium of instruction at all levels of education.

Resigned to this, Malaysians of Chinese and Indian origin face further obstacles when they attempt to enter institutions of higher education.

All Malaysia's major universities and institutions of higher education maintain disproportionate admission quotas for Malay students. For instance, the National University in Kuala Lumpur reserves 90 per cent of new places for Malay students, regardless of whether Chinese or Indian applicants have higher qualifications.

Both the agricultural and technological universities of Malaysia maintain an 80 per cent quota for Malays. The Science University in Penang and Malaysia University in Kuala Lumpur apply a more reasonable quota of 55 per cent. Of the 25,000 seats in higher education, only 2,500 are occupied by non-Malays.

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TABLE 3







On this and the facing page Thaung Myine, Reuter correspondent in Kuala Lumpur, looks at Malaysian efforts to stabilize commodity prices on world markets and examines four major industries in detail

## Primary goods guarantee a trade surplus

Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of \$M1,002m (£240m) in the first quarter of this year because of increased sales of its primary commodities at attractive prices in world markets.

The surplus compared favourably with the record surplus of \$M1,127m in the preceding quarter, which was a period of peak export performance, and it was double the surplus of the

corresponding period last year. Bank Negara Malaysia, the central bank, said in the latest issue of its economic bulletin that most of the high export earnings this year were largely the result of increases in exports of rubber, palm oil and tin.

The high level of exports at good prices only serves to reinforce the determination of Malaysian leaders to achieve stabilization of com-

modity prices to prevent the kind of economic recession, with attendant political disturbances, that they faced in 1974.

In that year, when commodity prices fell and inflation raged, anti-government demonstrations broke out in the economically depressed countryside against alleged corruption in high places. Thousands of university students in the capital joined in protest marches, which were

suppressed with force by armed police and the military.

Since then government leaders have been working on schemes for stabilizing commodity prices with like-minded primary producers in South-east Asia and other parts of the Third World.

Datuk Musa Hitam, the Primary Industries Minister, headed the move for a buffer stock of rubber and price stabilization scheme, which

was signed last year by the members of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC). It was based on the tin buffer stock scheme of the International Tin Council, with various price bands to prevent a sudden fall of prices.

Datuk Musa and Datuk Hamzah Abu Samah, the Trade and Industry Minister, have also been urging industrialized countries to agree to the concept of a common

fund for stabilization of primary commodity markets, including palm oil and rubber.

Datuk Hussein, the prime minister, took up this issue of the common fund at the recent Commonwealth summit in London, which appointed a technical working group on the question of Malaysia as a member.

The group met in London from July 22 to 24 to pave the way for the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) negotiations on such a common fund in Geneva from November 7 to December 2.

The idea of the common fund conceived by Malaysian leaders is to have a ready source of finance which can be used for stabilization of prices through commodity buffer stock schemes.

But industrialized nations have raised objections that

it would interfere with the normal forces of supply and demand, and thus raise prices and lead to inflation.

Replying to these objections, Mr Lew Sio Hon, Deputy Primary Industries Minister, told a seminar on the common fund in Kuala Lumpur recently that measures to lessen excessive fluctuations of commodity prices in the short term were not to correct any spectacular trend, but to overcome price

swings resulting from transient imbalances in supply and demand.

To the other objection that existing international financial institutions are inadequate to correct price stabilization, Mr Lew said: "The existing institutions and systems were designed mainly to serve the needs of the rich nations and as such they have outlived their usefulness".

## Tin: plans to attack host of troubles

The Malaysian Government has designated 1977 as the year of sustained development for the tin industry, which has declined in recent years.

From a record output of 76,830 tonnes in 1972, tin production fell to 63,401 tonnes last year. More than 80 mines were closed last year and 2,900 people thrown out of work.

Despite the decline in production, tin remains the third largest foreign exchange earner for Malaysia. Export receipts from tin last year reached a record \$M1,534m (£363m), surpassing the previous record of \$1,515m in 1974, because of a significant rise in world prices.

The Government benefited by \$290m from export duties and surcharges last year, and this year it expects to earn \$248m from such taxes. It has plans to attack the host of difficulties plaguing the industry.

The closure of mines, which led to the decline in yearly production, does not give a true picture because recent discoveries of new deposits show that Malaysia will remain the world's leading tin producer in the foreseeable future.

Some of the problems faced by tin miners in Malaysia are political. The industry is practically controlled by foreigners, mainly British and ethnic Chinese.

As tin is listed among non-renewable resources by the Government, the industry has become a target of its new economic policy, which calls for a restructuring of ownership and management in favour of the majority Malay race.

But few Malays have the capital or the skill to win their share of 30 per cent in the industry, which is the target to be reached by 1990 under the new economic policy. This is the crux of the problem facing foreign-owned mines looking for Malays to join in prospecting and mining of tin.

Meanwhile, miners are finding it difficult to get new land for prospecting and mining, or even to renew existing mine leases, a process which takes a long time. The difficulty of land acquisition and mining lease renewal is compounded by the exercise of jurisdiction by state governments, instead of by the Federal Government, over land and mining.

The states have little interest in renewing mining leases because they get only a minor share of tin revenue, and when they are willing to release mining land they often want inclusion of a Malay partner. But Malays with capital are prepared to enter into partnership only when tin is found, because they are not prepared to take the risks involved in prospecting.

The Federal Government and the National Land Council are reported to have agreed on drafting a national mining and streamlining procedures on prospecting, land alienation, and the issue and renewal of mining leases.

Miners hope for speedy action on the land code, now that the state-owned Pemas Securities holds a major stake in the tin industry.

Pemas Securities owns nearly 73 per cent of the major dredging companies, including the entire Anglo-Oriental group and substantial interests of the Associated Mines group.

Present frustrations and uncertainties faced by potential investors in Malaysia's tin industry are best illustrated by the case of Chartered Consolidated, a large British mining conglomerate.

The company discovered tin deposits in Kuala Lumpur, said to be the world's largest, in 1974 after spending more than \$2m in prospecting. The reserves are estimated at 305,000 tonnes—about five times the present annual output of Malaysia.

Chartered Consolidated entered into an agreement with Datuk Harun Idris, who was the Chief Minister of Selangor state, but after his dismissal last year, his successor said the agreement was invalid because it contravened the new economic policy. Chartered Consolidated is now looking for legal means to save the agreement.

Miners also complain about high taxes, which take up to 70 per cent of their profits. The President of the Chamber of Mines, in his annual meeting speech this year, called taxation "the most enduring problem of all". The Finance Minister, in response, said recently that his ministry was restructuring duties and taxes levied on the industry.

The Government has also announced that the setting of a metals exchange in Malaysia is being considered.

It has asked the Commonwealth Secretariat to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed exchange. The move is part of the Government's plan to improve the marketing aspects of the various major commodities, including rubber, tin and palm oil.

The world's tin price is expected to remain high. The International Tin Council has reported a shortage of 18,140 tonnes of tin this year, but miners say Malaysia will not be able to meet this shortage in the present circumstances.

After a two-day seminar on the problems of the mining industry a six-man committee, representative of both the Government and miners, has been appointed to make an in-depth study of the operation of the tin mines and recommend ways to stimulate their growth.

The committee, led by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Primary Industries, Tunku Tan Sri Ngah, will consider all the points raised by the seminar and seek the views of others interested in the tin industry.

Datuk Leow Yan Sip, a committee member representing the Chinese Mining Association, said both the Government and miners had now positively diagnosed all the ills of the industry to which several factors had contributed. These included depletion of workable tin reserves, crippling taxation, soaring production costs, and inconsistencies in the policies of various state governments on alienation, conversion and renewal of mining leases.

Reflecting the views of foreign and Chinese miners

who control the tin industry, Datuk Leow said it was now left to be seen whether the Government would apply appropriate cures to the ailing industry and set it on the road to recovery.

Surcharge on tin, which is a direct tax on production, should be abolished. Miners pay export duty and surcharge, tin profits tax, sales tax, development tax, income tax and import duties.

Datuk Leow said: "Overnight, marginal properties will become mineable. More mines will reopen and there will be more employment." Last year 86 gravel pump mines closed because of rising costs and 2,900 people were thrown out of work.

Datuk Leow believes that potential mining lands should be opened for prospecting, and the system of land administration by state governments, now bogged down in bureaucratic red tape, be improved under a fair, definite and clear-cut policy. He suggested a review of the royalty distribution ratio between the federal and state governments to encourage state governments to release more land for mining.

Datuk Muhammad Salleh Majid, the chief inspector of Mines, told the seminar that the federal Government was preparing a national mining code to harmonize legislation on mining and formulate a well-defined mining policy. But he added that the code would take some time to materialize because differences between the federal and state governments on land policy had to be resolved.

## Timber: keeping up after rapid recovery

Timber continues to maintain its position as an important export commodity for Malaysia after a spectacular recovery last year in world markets.

Exports of saw logs rose to 2,515,000 cu metres, worth \$M250m (£70m) in January to March this year compared with 1,892,000 cu metres valued at \$174m (£41m) exported in the corresponding period of 1976.

Sawn timber exports increased to 710,000 cu metres in the first quarter of this year from 540,000 cu metres in the January-March period last year. Sawn timber exports for this period were worth \$205m (£49m) this year compared with \$149m (£35m) last year.

The prices of timber in the first quarter this year were close to the average prices last year. They were \$115 compared with \$117 a cu metre of saw logs and \$288 compared with \$289 a cu metre of sawn timber.

Government economists say that traditional important buyers of Malaysian timber—the European Economic Community, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan—returned in force to the market last year because of a marked improvement in their construction activities after the recession in 1975.

Gross export earnings from 12,100,000 cu metres of saw logs at \$1,450m (£345m) last year represented a steep rise of 116 per cent. Sawn timber exports of 3,100,000 cu metres also represented a sharp rise of 110.4 per cent

at \$85m (£204m). Thus, timber became the fourth largest foreign exchange earner for Malaysia in 1976 after rubber, petroleum and tin.

The distribution of export earnings from timber was also pleasing to the federal Government because most of them came from the timber-rich states of Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia, which are still lagging behind West Malaysia in overall economic development.

Sabah took a lion's share of \$1,178m (£280m) from saw logs export, while Sarawak earned \$236m (£56m) and West Malaysia \$36m (£8.5m).

It was only in exports of timber that West Malaysia, with 500 mills, earned a big share of \$768m (£183m), leaving most of the remaining \$17m (£4m) to Sarawak.

Sabah's share in sawn timber exports was negligible, but the state with its own wood processing industry, towards this end, the Sabah Government last December organized the use of lesser-known species of timber in the region, and the state capital of Kota Kinabalu.

The conference discussed possibilities of attracting Japanese capital for a wood processing industry in Sabah and solving the Sabah's problems with the Japanese market, which is the biggest source of the portax world supplier of tropical hardwoods.

At the federal level, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board is continuing with its efforts to regulate the timber trade, aimed at making Malaysian timber competitive in overseas markets.

Last year it registered more than 27,600 firms engaged in various aspects of timber export activities, and set up a panel to settle disputes among buyers, exporters and producers.

At the regional level of promoting timber exports, Malaysia, with New Zealand, took part in an acre survey in primary forests, while the exploited areas are not replanted but used for other land development schemes.

Since logging is concentrated on the more readily accessible forest land, the remaining 8,400,000 acres of primary forest in West Malaysia are located in remote, mountainous country and watersheds.

The inventory gives warning to the timber industry to start thinking more seriously about reforestation in order to maintain the log supply. The Government is working hard with its programme of reforestation in timber-denuded states on the west coast of West Malaysia, and also in the joint ASEAN effort for central state of Pahang.

The reforestation programme has covered 700,000 acres. The Government is also looking into the possibility of making private logging with concessions of more than 30,000 acres carry out their own reforestation programmes.

## SMR: another record year! Now over half a million tonnes

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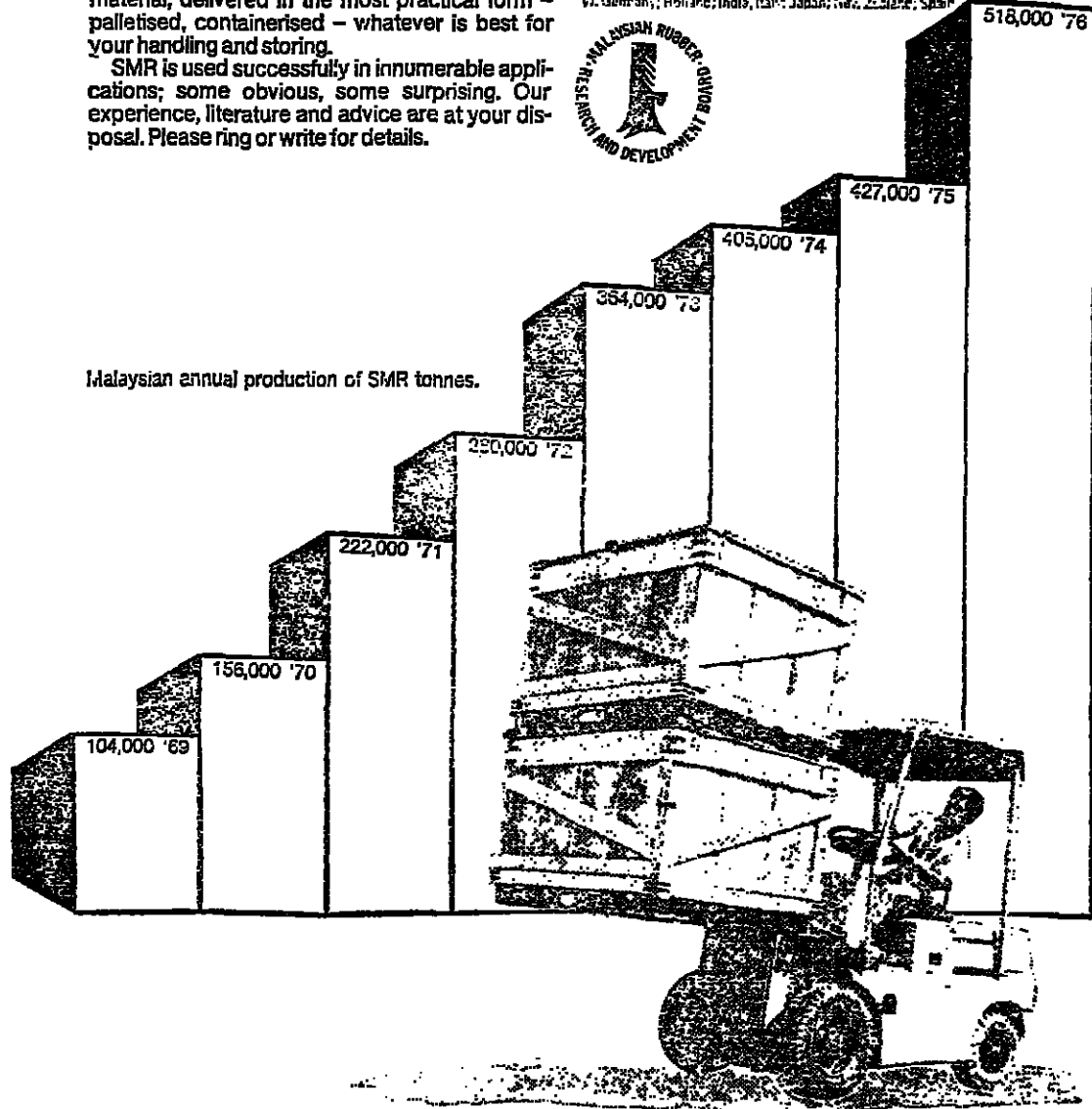
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Malaysian annual production of SMR tonnes.



These two ceremonies, 8,000 miles apart, underlined—to quote the Prime Minister—"the Malaysian Government's concern for the maximum effective support of natural rubber by scientific and technological resources" and he made it clear that intensive development of the rubber sector had a very special purpose within the Third Malaysia Plan.

"The Plan", he said, "gives highest priority to the growth and modernization of the agricultural sector, on which MS4.7 billion is being expended. Nearly 60% of this expenditure is to go towards programmes aimed at increasing productivity in existing agricultural areas, in order to improve the incomes and general welfare of the rural poor. In this sector the rubber smallholder occupies a predominant place. The Government has pledged itself to ensure that every cent spent under the Plan will generate benefits to those for whom such expenditure is designed."

### The MRRDB

The Malaysian Rubber Research and Development Board plays a key role within that part of the Plan which is concerned with the development of Malaysia's primary and major industry—the natural rubber industry.

MRRDB fosters technical progress in this industry at all stages from the seed to the manufactured rubber product and to the end the powerful scientific and technological resources of the two laboratories mentioned are deployed.

## The MRRDB, the NEP and the TMP

"The extension now being built to these laboratories is, in fact, one of the very many development projects for the rubber sector of our economy included in the Plan" said the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Datuk Hussein Onn on June 7th, 1977. He was naming the laboratory complex of the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association at Brickendonbury, England the 'Tun Razak Laboratory'.

"The credit worthiness of the Government is high, the balance of payments position is comfortable, the external reserves of the country are at a healthy level and the external debt is comparatively small" said the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamed, at the opening of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia's new Technology Centre near Kuala Lumpur in November, 1976.

### Main objectives of the 'Third Malaysia Plan' implementing the 'New Economic Policy'

- (1) To reduce the incidence of poverty in the rural areas throughout the country among padi cultivators, rubber smallholders, coconut smallholders, shifting cultivators, fishermen, estate workers, residents of New Villages, agricultural labourers by:
  - (i) expanding employment opportunities through new land development, establishment of new growth centres and the absorption of excess labour...
  - (ii) enhancing the productive role of the rural poor by increasing their access to land, water supplies, credit, markets, extension advice and other public facilities...
- (2) To reduce the incidence of poverty among the urban poor by:
  - (i) expanding employment opportunities in manufacturing and construction including the promotion of small-scale industries...
  - (ii) improving their real income through the provision of low-cost housing and other public services...
  - (3) To enhance the quality of life of all Malaysians and in particular the poor through the expansion of education health services, family planning facilities and housing...
  - (4) To increase the share of the Malays and other indigenous people in employment in mining, manufacturing and construction and the share of other Malaysians in agriculture and services...
  - (5) To raise the share of the Malays and other indigenous people in the ownership of productive wealth including land, fixed assets and equity capital...
  - (6) To foster the development of entrepreneurship among the Malays and other indigenous people so as to effectively contribute towards the creation by 1990 of a strong and viable commercial and industrial community among them...
  - (7) To encourage and support private investment both domestic and foreign...
  - (8) To promote further utilization of the country's abundant human and natural resources; and
  - (9) To develop and expand the social and physical infrastructure of the economy to effectively support the attainment of the above objectives.

The Board is particularly concerned in:—

- (a) increasing natural rubber production through the improvement of propagation and agricultural techniques
- (b) modernising processing, grading and presentation of the Malaysian produce for the market
- (c) expanding the international market for the product and its competitiveness by improving its technical performance
- (d) providing a technical service to rubber manufacturers and industrial users to maximise effective utilisation
- (e) developing new and improved applications for the rubber product manufacturing industries
- (f) In recent years the MRRDB has been charged to give impetus to an additional task of major importance—to do all in its power through its research and development facilities to aid the development of a home-based rubber products manufacturing industry in Malaysia.

MRRDB maintains a continuous technical dialogue with users through its Malaysian Rubber Bureau offices in rubber manufacturing centres around the world which operate a multi-lingual Technical Advisory Service linked to and supported by the two Laboratories.

Malaysian rubber, naturally

صك من النحل



## Rubber: resilient demand may raise prices

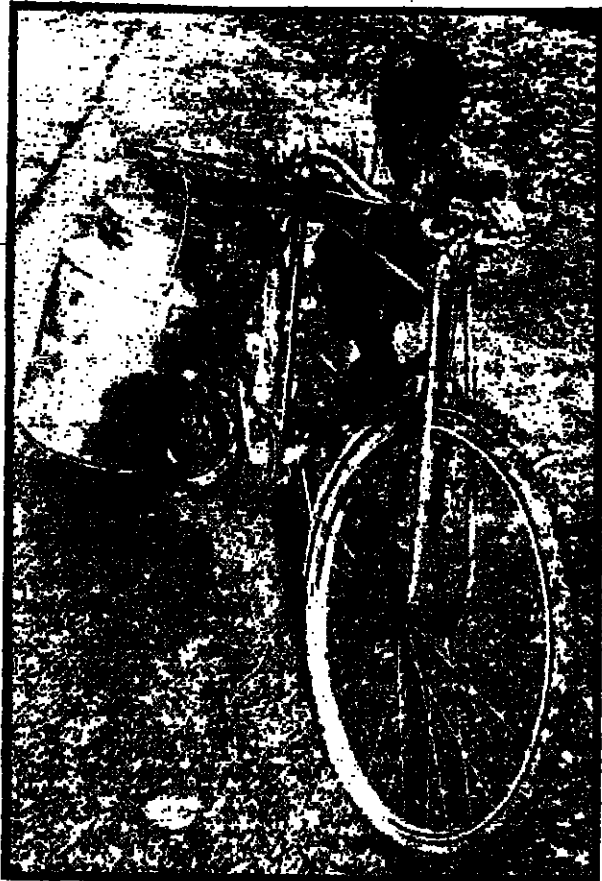
Long recovery of rubber in response to demand from countries moving recession, has given a boost to the economy. More than 100,000 people work on rubber in Malaysia. The price of rubber is expected to pick up in the first quarter of this year because of the drought, both production and demand at better prices are expected to pick up later this year.

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Malaysia's rubber industry is expected to pick up in the first quarter of this year because of the drought, both production and demand at better prices are expected to pick up later this year.

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A churn of latex being transported to the factory.

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## Palm oil: first moves to keep competitive edge

The palm oil industry expects a good year because of a sharp rise in world prices. Malaysian palm oil in Europe and the United States averaged 65 per cent higher in the first half of this year compared with the corresponding period last year.

The average cif price for the commodity for the first six months of this year was \$US579.6 a tonne in Europe and \$575.5 in the United States. Producers forecast that prices will stabilize at about \$550 a tonne in the remainder of this year.

With palm oil and palm kernel oil production projected at 1,913,000 tonnes, the export total this year is expected to surpass the 1,460,000 tonnes sold abroad last year for \$317m at a much lower export price.

In 1976 total export earnings from palm oil and palm kernel oil declined from 15.5 per cent of total exports to 9.9 per cent, making palm oil Malaysia's fifth largest foreign exchange earner after rubber, petroleum, tin and timber, after being second only to rubber in 1975.

The shortfall in export earnings from palm oil last year, solely caused by lower prices, was regarded as a temporary setback by the Malaysian Government, which remains committed to a long-term programme of dynamic, but orderly, development of the commodity.

The Government plans to set up the palm oil registration and licensing authority (Porla) in about three months.

Porla will be an all-embracing organization for the palm oil industry, filling the same role as the Malaysian Rubber Development Board and the Malaysian Rubber Export Licensing Board do in the rubber industry.

Porla might not be a cure for all the ills of the palm oil industry but the Government and producers regard its formation as a step in the right direction. It is expected to give the necessary boost to maintain palm oil's status as one of Malaysia's leading primary commodities.

Producers say Porla should also provide a much-needed impetus for more research and discovery of better production and processing techniques, as well as new uses to make the palm oil more competitive as an alternative to other edible oils.

At present research work, and even specification of what constitutes "refined" palm oil, is left to private companies.

In the 1920s and 1930s rubber transformed the economy of Malaya. But in the 1960s, when synthetic rubber made inroads into production of natural rubber and depressed natural rubber prices, the Malaysian Government felt it imperative to diversify, and strengthen, the economy with palm oil production.

In 1960, cultivation of oil palm started on 130,000 acres, but now the crop is grown on 1,500,000 acres, and the acreage under oil palm is likely to reach 1,900,000 in 1980.

Oil palm has proved to be the most suitable substitute for rubber, particularly in the east Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, where labour is in short supply. Sabah has more than 140,000 acres under oil palm while



Harvesting palms for one of the country's leading primary commodities.

In Sarawak the crop is planted on 40,000 acres. In peninsular Malaysia, the continuing conversion of rubber land to palm oil by both estates and smallholders has been an important factor accounting for the increased area under oil palm.

Oil palm is basically an estate crop, but thousands of individual families are earning a good income from it because of the land settlement schemes of the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda). About 40,000 settlers and their families are dependent for their livelihoods on Felda's oil palm schemes.

Like the private rubber estates, Felda began to switch from rubber to oil palm in the 1960s. Today Felda is the largest palm oil producer in the country, with 505,450 acres or about 30 per cent of the total planted area.

The authority is also the world's biggest single producer of palm oil. Its output in 1976 totalled 243,700 tonnes and almost all of this tonnage was exported.

Felda expects that its production will reach 500,000 tonnes by 1980 when new oil palm schemes come into production and existing ones reach their peak yield.

With production of palm oil and rubber reaching such a scale, Felda decided to set up its own marketing authority, Felma, in 1974, and sold about \$M350m worth of palm oil and rubber abroad last year.

Felda has its critics, despite its success in giving a livelihood to thousands of impoverished, landless people. For one thing, they say its costs are about 30 per cent higher than those usually incurred by private companies in such land schemes. Another criticism is that only the majority Malay race have benefited from it and minority Chinese and Indians have been left out.

Despite recovery of the palm oil price in response to demand, producers express concern over the decline in sales to the United States. They are unhappy over the campaign by the soyabean industry against palm oil.

EP and the T...  
yone who can guide you  
ough the jungle can be  
d to lead you out  
woods."

— Oriental Wisdom



## Getting a clearer view of Southeast Asia's other oil market.

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## Oil gets benefit of tough negotiations

by Roger Vielvoye

Malaysia's small offshore oil industry is once again expanding after two years in the doldrums. Petronas, the state oil company, Shell and Exxon have conducted some of the toughest negotiations the oil industry has seen for many years over the terms under which the companies should operate their commercial oil discoveries.

By last autumn both sides were deadlocked and appeared to be heading for a serious confrontation. It took the personal intervention of Datuk Hussein bin Onn and the departure of Tunku Razaleigh Hamzah, the Minister of Finance, from his secondary post as chairman of Petronas, a compromise offer from the government side, and a state-imposed deadline for completing the negotiations to produce agreements with Shell and Exxon in December.

For once the negotiations involved more than just tough talking and hollow threats by the international oil companies, as has often happened in the past. Exxon gave warning that it could not continue to operate in the bitter atmosphere engendered by the negotiations and then surprised other oil companies by suspending development work on a new field off the state of Trengganu.

The company ordered that two completed steel production platforms built for the field should be left in the Japanese construction yard until agreement on terms could be reached.

The big oil groups had been upset by the Petronas demand for production-sharing contracts with terms equal to those in force in Indonesia, generally considered to be extremely favour-

able to the Government. According to some industry observers, a number of the big oil groups were afraid that if they could not wring concessions from a non-Opec member still needing the skills and knowledge of foreign oil companies to continue the search for further oil reserves, then the credibility of the industry in future dealings with other emerging oil states would be seriously impaired.

As well as suspending its development operations, Exxon also pointed out that the Petronas hard-line on production-sharing agreements might rebound in other sectors of the economy where foreign investors could be frightened away by the prospect of the spread of tougher attitudes on state participation.

They were also able to argue that lack of an agreement could damage the prospects for a big liquid natural gas development off Sarawak, for which the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation has already ordered five liquid natural gas tankers, the first of which is scheduled for delivery in 1979.

Petronas had its own threats to deliver. Exxon and Shell were told that 15 other oil companies were lining up to replace them should the negotiations fail to produce an agreement on the state's terms. And it would be the newcomers to the scene who would compensate the two companies for the loss of their Malaysian production facilities.

Critics of the softer line taken by the Prime Minister claim that with production at about 175,000 barrels a day fetching \$12.72 a barrel, Petronas is now receiving more than \$100m a year less than it would have acquired from its original production-sharing proposals. The loss to the state company would rise to nearly \$120m a year

once output reaches 200,000 barrels a day, probably later this year.

Under the agreement signed in December 10 per cent of production is shared equally between the federal and state governments with a further 20 per cent retained by the oil companies to cover their development and running costs. The remaining 70 per cent is split 70:30 between Petronas and the companies which, after tax, gives the state an 83.5:16.5 split.

Having run into difficulties and been forced to climb down in the negotiations with Exxon and Shell, Petronas is again pursuing a hard line in an attempt to persuade another American company, Continental Oil, to sign a similar production-sharing agreement.

It is resisting the suggestion that terms good enough for Shell and Exxon should be good enough for Conoco and its partners, the Australian Steel and oil producer BHP and El Paso, an American-based company with considerable experience in the natural gas business. Conoco claims that the three fields found off the east coast of the Malay peninsula are more marginal than the larger Shell and Exxon finds and that the production-sharing agreement should be tailored accordingly.

When the negotiations started in February the Conoco consortium asked for a final split of 60:40 in the Government's favour, which has subsequently been modified to a 75:25 ratio.

Throughout the negotiations Petronas has stuck to the 83.5:16.5 formula and industry sources do not expect any concessions to be made. Talks between two sides have been extremely spasmodic during the summer and it may be some time before an agreement is reached. For the other companies



Datuk Hussein bin Onn, the Prime Minister, who intervened personally to resolve a dispute over the oil franchise.

considering exploration in Malaysian waters, the outcome of the deal with Conoco is crucial. It is generally accepted that Shell and Exxon have found the most prolific oil-bearing structures and that new discoveries will be akin to the smaller reservoirs uncovered by the Conoco consortium.

Although there had been agreement with Shell on production sharing, this was not the prelude to expected early approvals for the Bintulu liquid natural gas scheme in Sarawak, costing more than £1,000m. Sensitive talks are still in progress over the form that a joint venture to exploit and market the gas should take.

There is also uncertainty over plans by Petronas in marketing. The controversial proposal in the Petroleum Development (Amendment) Act, which would have enabled the Government to acquire control of Shell and Exxon's refining operations by the creation of management shares in the companies held by Petronas, is no longer a runner. Petronas still wants a share in the downstream end of the oil business but it is now accepted that this will not come through arbitrary measures like management shares.

The author is Energy Correspondent, The Times.

## The new language of education

by Adibah Amin

Changing the language medium of a nation's education system is a marathon task. Anxiety is unavoidable on two points: how competent the new medium is, and how competent the students are in it.

These are the two points Malaysia's education and language authorities have continually to bear in mind in effecting the change from English to Bahasa Malaysia (modern Malay) as the main medium of instruction.

In the period of British rule, which ended only two decades ago, getting educated beyond primary level almost always meant going to an English-medium school, an English-medium college, an English-medium university.

Primary schools were available in four language mediums: English, Malay, Chinese, Tamil, the four major languages of this plural society. Chinese secondary schools there were, leading to universities in China and Singapore, but an education in Chinese did not offer quite the employment opportunities and social standing that an education in English did.

Education in Tamil stopped at primary level. So did education in Malay, except for two colleges for training primary school teachers. Besides being the official language, English was the academic language, and became very much the everyday language of those educated in it.

The people who planned and worked for Malaysia's independence came to an agreement that Malay should slowly replace English in these capacities. More, it should be a national language, understood and used by all.

This decision was primarily political. It happened, too, that Malay was the language already understood and spoken by the largest number of people in Malaysia.

The new position of Malay, particularly in the sciences, it lacked the body of terms necessary for academic precision. Committees of experts were formed to build this body of terms, by using words already

other languages: the people were to be free to go on using and studying them.

English, while gradually relinquishing its dominant role, would remain a useful second language, particularly in education and international communication.

In the education system, all this has expressed itself in certain provisions. Bahasa Malaysia and English are taught in all schools. A pass in Bahasa Malaysia is required for obtaining the Lower Certificate of Education at form three and the Malaysian Certificate of Education at form five.

### English to be phased out by 1983

Secondary and tertiary education in Bahasa Malaysia have been established. All schools follow a common syllabus and sit for common examinations.

English-medium schools are being changed to Bahasa-medium, beginning in 1970 with standard one in primary school and proceeding upwards at the rate of one class a year.

In 1980 all schools except Chinese and Tamil primary ones, of which there are not many, will be Bahasa-medium. In 1983 all colleges and universities will be Bahasa-medium, and so on, moving one step up each year until all tertiary education is in the new language medium.

How competent is Bahasa Malaysia to cope with this?

In 1953 when it was first called upon to be a language medium for secondary education, it had severe shortcomings. As a language of everyday conversation and of literary expression it was highly developed, with a vocabulary enriched by borrowings over centuries from Sanskrit, Arabic, Tamil, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch and English, and a delicacy of shade and nuance born of imaginative use by writers traditional and modern.

But as a language of learning, particularly in the sciences, it lacked the body of terms necessary for academic precision. Committees of experts were formed to build this body of terms, by using words already

in the language, by adopting and adapting foreign words, and by coining.

Spurred by immediate need, the committees produced terms by the yard for use in teaching and the writing of textbooks. But as the different organizations concerned with education and language had their own committees, different sets of terminology were produced. To add to the merry confusion, some teachers and textbook writers concocted their own terms when they could not find these fast enough in the terminology sets. It must be confessed that a number of terms which found their way into textbooks, from expert as well as semi-expert and non-expert sources, were howlers.

Yet somehow, correcting and coordinating as they went along, the word-makers managed to give Bahasa Malaysia a vocabulary that was wide, precise and consistent enough to communicate knowledge efficiently at university level as well as secondary school level.

The first Bahasa-medium university, the National University, was set up seven years ago. Lectures and tutorials are in Bahasa Malaysia, as are assignments and examinations. English books are extensively used for reference. ESP (English for Special Purposes) courses being provided to help students in this.

### A heartening degree of success

Considering that a high standard is maintained and checked through external examinations from reputable universities in Britain and other countries, the degree of success achieved by the university's students is heartening. Many of its graduates too have been accepted into universities in Britain, Australia, the United States, France and Iran to do post-graduate courses in economics, mathematics, geography, geology, physics, chemistry, library science, Islamic law.

Several have already returned with masters' degrees. Doctorates too have been obtained, for instance in chemistry from Reading and Salford universities, in Britain, and in mathematics

from La Trobe University, Australia.

This and the performance of Bahasa-medium graduates in various jobs have minds at rest about the ability of Bahasa Malaysia as an academic instrument. There are still weaknesses and complacency would be disastrous. But after a first desperate decade, situation, to use a favoured expression among management circles, was under control.

Less reassuring is answer to the question: competent are students the use of Bahasa Malaysia? Even allowing for almost worldwide decline in language performance, the general standard of Bahasa students is disquieting.

In the universities it is uncommon to find a solid and even brilliant writer in a western language. Examiners of Bahasa papers in Malaysian Certificate of Education and the Higher S Certificate (Malaysia's A Levels) are shocked at each year at the paucity of vocabulary, wooliness of expression and plain bad grammar so prevalent in scripts they mark.

One reason is lack of training in Bahasa Malaysia the part of students. Another is acute shortage of teachers qualified to teach the language. A third is the syllabus which, though improved from the time was all prefixes, suffixes and proverbs, still places much emphasis on learning the language and little on learning to use language.

In the change from English to Bahasa Malaysia at medium of instruction expected drop in the command of English has without a compensating in the command of Bahasa Malaysia.

Such a rise would anyway, be commendable enough. The education authorities are increasingly aware that Malaysia cannot afford to decline in proficiency in either language. They are perfecting a strategy to attack on the teaching of both languages.

The author is a columnist for the New Straits Times, Singapore.

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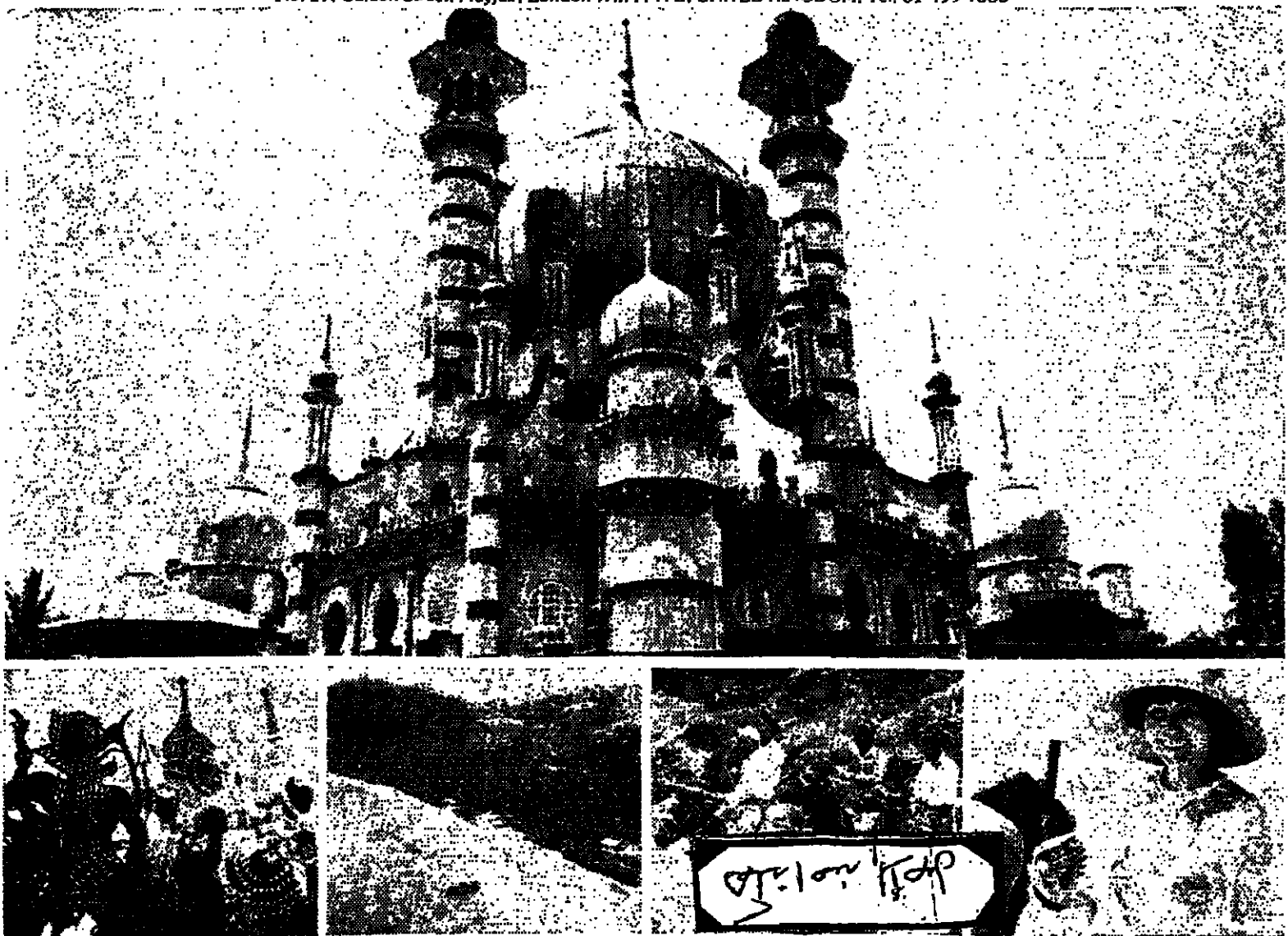
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language of  
education

## Staging a search for roots

by Krishen Jit

desperate search for roots tends to passion in the theatre in Malaysia. Traditional theatre practitioners, scholars or cultural workers are endeavouring to discover the long-neglected ancient forms of performance and to protect them from extinction or loss.

A contemporary drama, they carry a heavy burden that shouldered by modernists is perhaps lighter, for they are in no less a task to infuse a local character into a largely imported form.

The experience of other Asian theatres that the path is not a smooth one. They are relative newcomers, Malaysians can learn from the other Asian theatres. But under South-east Asian is emerging from the East, Malaysia has a role in rescuing its treasures, particularly the performing arts, from oblivion.

Local theatre is not immune from the changes that have, nevertheless, shaped the shape and form of modern Malaysia. The first radio play from the so-called "modern" drama, a sign of the importance of the medium, began only a few years ago.

The attention of the theatre-going public has been attracted by the "contemporary" drama since 1957, is upon the "contemporary" drama.

Modern, or sandi, never been devoid of personal or political content, the contrary, try to become a part of the Western techniques, the modern playwrights easily shed their garb.

They thought they were like realists of social conscience early writers slipped in traditional stereotypes in modern drama. Included clowning, for example, the old and resilient fun in traditional drama.

berately, by raising a sphere of contemporary drama in the 1960s breed of led by Mustafa

### Transfer was made with ease

A common language and culture explains the ease with which the transfer was made. Significantly, too, the departure of the British and Dutch colonisers from the region reopened the once-busy gates of cultural exchange and borrowing which had earlier characterized the two ASEAN countries.

That contemporary Malaysian theatre owes something to Indonesia should not, therefore, be surprising. Compared with the earlier loan, however, the current one is much smaller. In fact, the best of the innovative playwrights work independently of theatre developments in Indonesia.

Only the younger and less mature set of writers, the heirs of the previous tradition of borrowing, monitor Indonesian dramatic trends and attempt to transplant them into Malaysia.

Like their predecessors, these playwrights suffer from a time-lag between the introduction of a dramatic style in Jakarta and its subsequent appearance in Kuala Lumpur. More than a decade, for example, separates the arrival of the absurd drama in the two countries.

Moreover, the staging of Beckett, Ionesco and Pinter by amateur English-language

drama groups in Kuala Lumpur did not much affect the drama modern people. Not until the 1970s did the first recognizable local absurd plays make their debut in Malaysia.

One other factor cannot be ignored in accounting for the late arrival of the absurd among national playwrights. It might be argued that the severely pessimistic philosophy of absurd drama is not natural to Malaysian soil. Lack of conviction and not lack of skill alone, also explains why the local variety is often garbled and timid.

In contrast, boldness is the hallmark of the foremost contemporary playwrights in the country. Their rebellion against sining-room dramas is an act of belief in their worth as Malaysians. Their success in promoting their kind of theatre has spawned numerous, although less accomplished, imitators.

Among most of the experimenting playwrights, the notion of a distinct Malaysian theatrical identity is viewed as a pragmatic undertaking. Without a large theatre-going public or facilities to support a technically developed theatre, copying the western model would not only be shameful but also futile.

Originality and excellence, they contend, can best be achieved by creating "a poor theatre", offering a unique event. In short, an unmistakable local atmosphere in performance as well as in content.

They also envisage an expanding and livelier audience for their plays. Thus motivated, the pathfinders hack away at the close-like performance-audience relationship encouraged by drama modern.

Except for Mustapha Kamal Yassin, the drama modern writers of the 1960s were literary men with little personal experience in the art and craft of theatre. Most, too, were not primarily playwrights but came to drama as part of an exploration of the modern in literature. Even as they invented a refreshing colloquial speech on the Malaysian stage, the tone and often the form of their dramas revealed a literary texture.

Their theatre remained amateurish because they lacked meaningful private or institutional patronage apart from their select audience. In his conscious revolt, the contemporary theatre people

talk of breaking down the walls of the stage and democratizing their audience. Almost as soon as they tried a more intimate and spontaneous communion by staging plays in the round or in open spaces, they discovered that such was precisely the kind of kinship nurtured by their traditional theatres.

The appeal to different audience tastes and sensibilities also judges them closer to the soul of traditional performance. Drama modern might have excited the minds of their special audience with their dialogue-based plays. By transgressing the energy of song, dance, mime and poetry, the recent experimental theatre affords a multiplicity of sensations for the many to enjoy.

Similar efforts to acquire higher and more diverse audiences have also been launched by contemporary Indonesian theatre. The living tradition of commercialized, popular theatre has been seen as the carrier by Jakarta playwrights to entice the common people to their once-elitist stages. Less fortunate—because their popular theatre forum, Bangsawan, is a pale reflection of the former glory—the Malaysian theatre egalitarians are understandably in the vanguard of the campaign to revive the rustic and gaudy theatre.

First ground for a contemporary Malaysian theatre was broken by a playwright working in the Sultan Idris teachers' training college about 50 miles north of Kuala Lumpur.

With *Bukan Lalang Ditup Angin* ("It is not the mere rustling of the wind"), the named cockfight, where the misbegotten farmer, confessing the rich man's bird, ruefully learns that he loses all even when he wins the exhilarating competitions.

Even though the play was nationally televised in 1971, and achieved greater prestige on winning the first national literary award for drama the next year, Noordin Hassan could not shake off the label of abstruseness.

Far from being misunderstood again, the purposeful and socially committed teacher-playwright opted for clarity in his next play, *Tiang Sri Tegak Berlima*. The sharper and more resolved pictures that he evoked hinted that lucidity had become the natural companion of Noordin Hassan's new-found affirmative posture towards his society.



A scene from a musical drama by Noordin Hassan.

contemporary Malaysian life. One critic noted that the riots of May 13, 1969, which had inspired the play, also profoundly affected its anarchic movement. The most disturbing part was the misbegotten farmer, confessing the rich man's bird, ruefully learns that he loses all even when he wins the exhilarating competitions.

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Theoretically, the most powerful scene in the play was the entrance of the deformed and handicapped person, come to seek solace from the gorgeous Mekong. The procession of the lame, blind, deaf and dumb—drumming the *gendang* and chanting the *Dikir Barat*—assaulted the senses.

This was no prostitution of a traditional performing style for the sake of sensationalism, but an original and honest discovery of its dramatic potential for a modern Malaysian theatre.

Noordin Hassan excels in this area. He has demonstrated that the indigenous expressive arts, when used with integrity and imagination, can illuminate the complexities of modern Malaysian society. He uses Malay verse forms, improvised song and dance, religious chanting, pageants, and broad and raucous comedy of the popular theatre genre.

helped Noordin Hassan finely to hone his visual and aural imagery. By way of the cinema, Syed Alwi, the other important contemporary playwright, arrives at an equally impressive, if somewhat different, crystallization of theatre method. Deeply rooted in the Malaysian earth, *Tok Perak*, his best play to date, is technically prodigious.

In the form of film, shadow, dances, music and poetry he constructs a multi-media edifice for *Tok Perak*, winner of the National Literary Award in 1974.

*Tok Perak* is a powerful metaphor for the dual nature of man. His drive towards personal freedom is accomplished at the expense of loneliness. Yet his desire for unfettered self-expression is hauntingly balanced against his compulsion for roots.

The author is drama critic, New Sunday Times, Kuala Lumpur.

## What's what about who's who

by Adibah Amin

The profusion and complexity of Malaysian titles where the hostess can make could drive the uninitiated to distraction. The rule is to take nothing for granted. Malaysia is made up of 13 states, of which nine have royal rulers or Sultans. Someone with the title SSM, because SMN was state of Johore may be only a member of the minor aristocracy, but in the northern state of Perak a Raja is likely to be very close to the throne.

The title Syed before a man's name (Sharifah for a woman) indicates descent from the Prophet Muhammad and normally has no aristocratic significance. But a Syed from Perlis, Malaysia's northernmost state, may well be a member of the royal family.

When someone is a Teakun or Tunku, the chances are that his blood is very blue indeed, or very white, as the Malays would put it, unless, that is, he comes from Perak, where a Raja is usually higher in the hierarchy.

Position in the social hierarchy depends mainly on closeness to the throne. Hereditary titles are passed down the male line, but kinship is counted from the female side as well.

When a princess marries a commoner, in some states the commoner's title is elevated to that of a prince. Megar and their daughters Puerti, while in others the children are called Wan. However, not all these titles originate in this way.

Someone should do research on the history and social significance of these titles and of others like Ungku, Pangeran, Nik, Tuan and the numerous states hereditary Daruks.

The conferred honours are easier to learn as there are only about 150 of them and they are arranged in a clear hierarchy. The aspiring hostess should make friends with the protocol people and swot up the hierarchy.

Some hostesses get by on just the federal list, in which there are only 24 awards. Top of the list is Seri Pahlawan Gagah Perkasa (SPG) for exceptional bravery and self-sacrifice. But the hostess need not worry about this, as it carries no title before the person's name and anyway the holder is not likely to be twinking in the social galaxy.

Neither need she worry about the two just below, because DKM is awarded only to reigning Sultans and DMN to people-like foreign princes and heads of state.

The top-middle rungs are where the hostess can make an embarrassing slip. It is not enough to know that the highest there is Tun, then Tan Sri, then Datuk.

There are Tans and Tuns. Those with the SSM are higher than those with the SMN, because SMN was created eight years earlier than SSM. Other factors come into play, such as who got his runship earlier and what political appointment, if any, he holds.

The same goes for the Tan Sri of which there are two categories, the PMN and the slightly lower PSM. The federal Datuk, PSD, comes below the PSM. Although it was created earlier than the PSM, the Prime Minister in 1970 decided that it should have a lower position in the hierarchy.

A federal Datuk takes precedence over state Datuks, though some state Datuks are older than the federal ones. The trouble comes when you entertain in a certain state and have the Datuks of that state as well as federal ones.

The understanding in such a case is to put the Datuks of that particular state before the federal Datuks, but not everyone will agree to "understand".

Lower honours carry no titles, so you need not bear them in mind constantly during conversation and need only look them up when you write formal letters to these people. Also, an error in social positioning is somewhat less serious further down the ladder.

Speaking to the titled was at one time a most elaborate affair. If you spoke to a Daruk, for instance, you referred to him as "Datuk" and to himself as "hamba Datuk" (Datuk's slave) throughout the conversation. Nowadays you still call him Datuk, never "you", but you may use the ordinary *sayo* (I).

The wife of a Daruk, hereditary or conferred, is called Datin. But other hereditary titles carry no corresponding titles for the wives.

A Tun's wife is Toh Puan, a Tan Sri's wife Puan Sri. Any of the titles can be conferred on a woman as well as a man, and have been. The husband gets no title.

The women are quite happy about this, but the men have been heard to ask plaintively: "Why can't a female Tan Sri's husband be a Puan Sri?"

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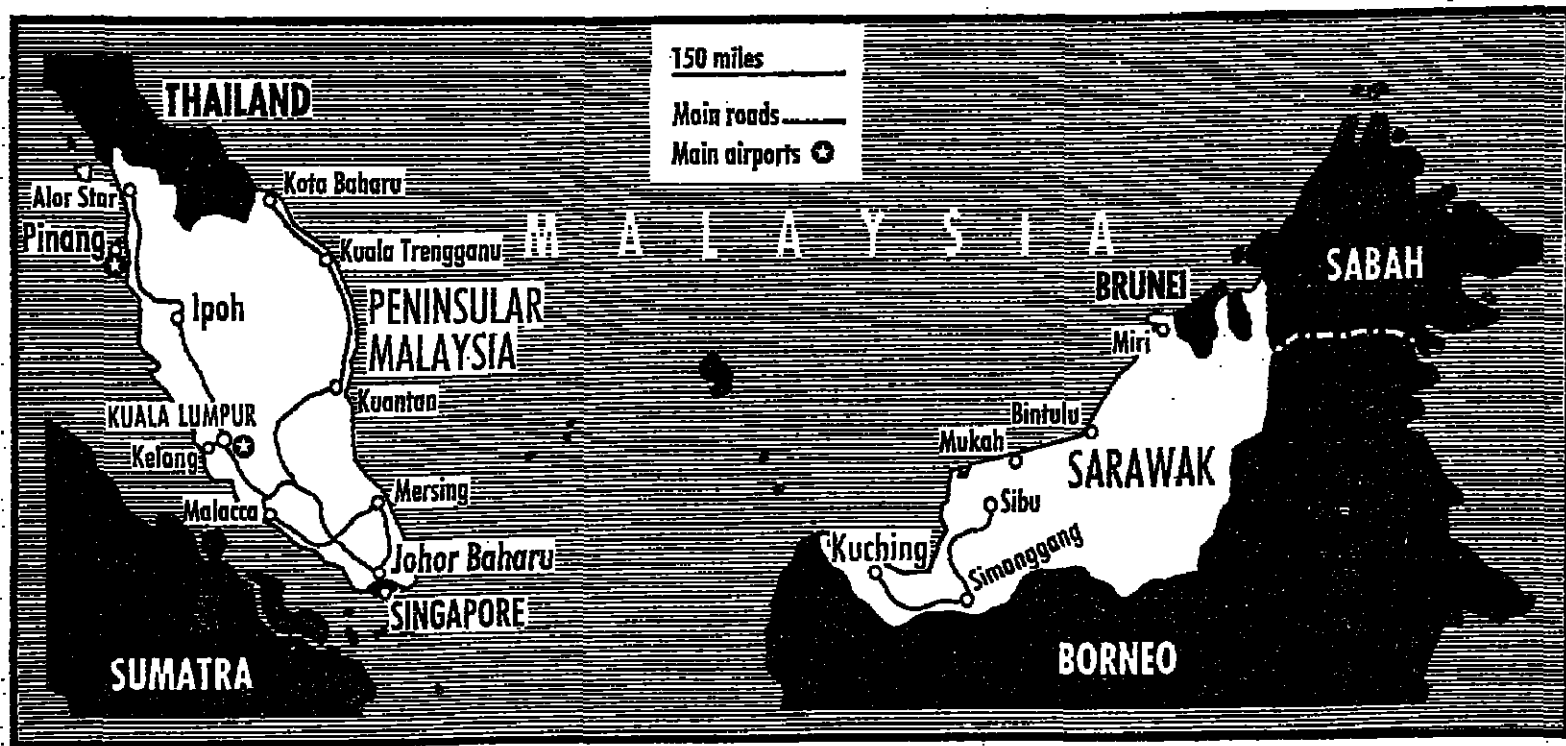
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## Communist threat lingers on

by K. Das

As Malaysia celebrates 20 years of independence, there is a disquieting awareness in the country that freedom from British rule in 1957 did not mean freedom from the nagging irritation by the Communist Party of Malaysia (MCP), which backs its claim to be fighting for freedom by killing occasional policemen, laying booby traps in the jungles and planting communist flags in urban areas on its own rather obscure anniversaries.

A force of some 15,000 armed men in 1952 had been reduced to a wandering band of 600 men by 1960, pursued and hunted by Malaysian and Commonwealth forces, and driven out of the peninsula into the jungles of bordering Thailand.

In 1963, the party launched its so-called seven-year plan to take over the country by 1975. The party's strength stood then at about 950 men, according to government estimates. Police intelligence also had what is known as chartered figures, that is exact knowledge of who the men were, where they operated, their backgrounds and in many cases photographs.

The chartered figure was about 705. By 1975, the end of the seven-year plan period, the MCP had an estimated membership of 2,000 men, but were nowhere near taking over the country. By this year the figure was further swelled, and estimates put it at 3,000 armed men. The chartered

strength by June, 1977, however, was only 2,057.

Even more satisfying for the Government, the communists who fled across the border and are forced to recruit Thais into the so-called Malaysian Communist Party, constantly disagreed on the best strategy to adopt in their "revolutionary war", and in 1970 split irrevocably into three factions.

The split, long dismissed as government propaganda by most cynics, was confirmed with elaborate explanations only on July 5 by no less an authority than the clandestine radio, Suara Revolusi Malaya, or the Voice of Malaya Revolution, based in Yunnan in China.

The radio, a long-time irritant to Malaysia, and a subject of discussion before Malaysia finally established relations with China, launched a vicious attack on the main breakaway group of the MCP, the so-called Marxist-Leninist faction. In 1975, in a state of urban guerrilla activity, the communists blew up a national war monument, fired mortar shells into the air force base outside the federal capital, lobbed grenades into the Police Field Force headquarters in Kuala Lumpur (killing two constables and wounding 41), and finished their grim work for the year by killing the chief police officer of Perak state, in the heart of Ipoh town.

During the year they also managed to kill more than a dozen special branch officers up and down the country. It was only when the terror campaign was at its height that the police machinery moved into top gear. More important, a diplomatic offensive began to get the total commitment of the Thai Government to flush out the communists who had begun their attack from the safety of sanctuaries in Thailand.

The police offensive and army manoeuvres were immediately successful in that they moved the most militant of the MCP back into the Thai jungles, and proof of success was that not a single incident took place last year or this involving police or army units. The only attacks were on civilians and there were a few casualties. But the Government was more concerned now to get the Thai Government to help to clean up the border.

Under the military government of Thailand, and later under the Government of Kukrit Pramroj and even under the rule of Seni Pramroj, there was only elaborate discussion and nit-picking as Bangkok prevaricated and made polite noises. The MCP in mid-1976, watching the ineffectual border operation, pulled its most magnificent coup. It staged a demonstration in Bangkok town against the stationing of Malaysian troops in Thailand.

The 400 Police Field Force troops in Bangkok were there under the border agreement largely to provide an umbrella for Malaysian intelligence men seeking to identify MCP members and supporters from Malaysia and to assist the Thai police and army. But when the Bangkok demonstrations were launched, Seni Pramroj in Bangkok was so besieged by the new democratic Parliament's supporters of the demonstrations, that he gave way and demanded that Malaysian troops be withdrawn.

Kuala Lumpur was almost in a state of panic, because with the Police Field Force gone, Betong would go communist almost in the same way as border towns on the South Vietnam borders went communist, and creeping communism was inevitable.

The diplomatic offensive from Kuala Lumpur was hardly making headway when the Seni Pramroj Government fell and gave way to the Government of Thanin Kraivichien and the new generals, and an anti-communist mood in Bangkok set in which brought almost a revolution in thinking about the MCP. The border agreement was revitalized and Malaysian troops are now permitted to go almost anywhere and for any length of time.

The first full-scale joint border operation, code-named Big Star One, was launched in January this

year. In April came Big Star Two. In brigade strength Malaysian and Thai troops swept through the Sadao area of Yala province in southern Thailand and totally dislodged a Revolutionary Faction force of some 250 men, capturing supplies and logistics material that will take a decade to replace.

On July 4 Operation Sacred Ray One was launched in Betong itself and three days later Sacred Ray Two began in the Weng salient to the east, just across the Kelantan state border, this time with three Malaysian brigades and an undisclosed number of Thai troops. Again the "kills" were few and far between but supplies of food and medicine and war material that took years to assemble were captured.

Since the end of 1975 the communists have not made any attempt to advance. The job, as seen by Malaysian army and police, with the help of Thailand, is to harass, attack and pursue.

While the army and police are on the move the Malaysian Government is fully preoccupied with the task of social and economic advancement, the only long-term cure for the growth of communism.

Ever since East Pakistan broke away to form Bangladesh, the phrase "East Malaysia" to describe Sarawak and Sabah has been officially frowned upon, lest its use gives rise to similar ideas. But the prospect of secession has diminished now almost to the level of myth and might-have-been.

A cynical reason for believing that the two states will never break away is that Indonesia would absorb them if they did. But long before that the attempt would probably have failed because the army forces, the police and the courts are all federal organizations which could be used if tolerance of Malaysia should wane.

A better explanation now, however, is that there is no fundamental pressure for change. In both states elected governments fall over themselves to declare their enthusiasm for Malaysia. In any event, politicians are not really popular and many people prefer to keep their rulers at a distance; home rule would not necessarily be better.

Within the past decade only Tun Mustapha bin Daru Harun, the former Sabah Chief Minister, has defied Kuala Lumpur—with the main result that he has been reduced from enormous power to an ineffective opposition role.

In 1975 when the combined pressures of a timber export slump and adverse Treasury decisions in Kuala Lumpur hit Sabah's ill-managed finances hard, Tun Mustapha circulated within his party a short untidy paper entitled *The Future Position of Sabah in Malaysia*.

His intention may have been more blackmail than secession but even if a break-away move is discounted a large threat to Malaysian stability remained. Tun Mustapha had spent a lot of money wooing supporters in Kuala Lumpur, and the prospect was that he would add Sabah's 12 members of Parliament to those of the Islamic Party, that some dissident UMNO MPs would have joined in and that UMNO would have come under powerful all-Bumiputra challenge.

Tun Razak, the Prime Minister at the time, decided against direct action. Instead he lent his blessings to a new party, Berjaya (Success), which would challenge

## Secession now seen as a non-starter

by Hugh Mabbett

Tun Mustapha's party at the next state elections.

The play succeeded, Berjaya won and Tun Fuad Stephens, its leader, became Sabah's Chief Minister—only to die in an aircraft crash less than two months later, in June last year. Datuk Harris Salleh, his deputy, took over.

Later his party forced Tun Mustapha to resign as leader but recently, apparently in need of both his appeal and his reputed money, it invited him back. His return has caused some trepidation in Kuala Lumpur and among his opponents in Sabah but this appears to have little basis.

His fall showed him not to be all powerful; many young people in his party resent him for the disaster his extravagance brought upon it, he is not getting the sympathy he expected from old allies in Kuala Lumpur and he may even, despite his huge income for many years from timber concessions, be short of money.

### Revived economy strengthens government hand

Meanwhile, Datuk Harris, the present Chief Minister, has been fortunate. Timber prices have recovered so the state's economy is buoyant once more, his party has withdrawn the strains inevitable in such a young organization coming so rapidly to power and the change in Kuala Lumpur from Tun Razak to Datuk Hussein Onn, the present Prime Minister, seems to suit his style.

All this makes a good platform from which his Government can tackle some major problems—especially deciding what can be done about 90,000 (some say more than 100,000) mainly Muslim recent migrants from the southern Philippines. They are often described as refugees from fighting there but there is no doubt that most were not so much escaping from war as looking for a chance to gain from Malaysia's higher living standards.

Tun Mustapha permitted the influx, supposedly in the belief that more Muslims would strengthen his hold in a state with a Muslim minority. Now every coastal town has its ring of squatter

houses, its unemployed, its higher crime rate and its occasional cholera as a result.

There is talk of resettling the migrants on land schemes but few Sabahans relish the idea of money being spent on people they see as intruders. However, they are not likely to go home either and it would be as bad or worse to leave them as they are.

Another issue of pressing importance is the salvation of what remains of Sabah's forests, the source of astonishing wealth in the past decade.

In a recent interview Datuk Harris said that at present felling rates Sabah would run through its forests in 10 years or so. But concessions extending log exports will be curbed, processing for added value will be encouraged and by 1980 we will have the situation under tight control.

This will reduce timber revenue but earnings from oil will pick up. Tun Mustapha had refused to sign an agreement with Petronas, Malaysia's state oil corporation, giving it rights to oil in return for 5 per cent of production. Berjaya did and now Shell and Exxon are enlarging production from about 80,000 barrels a day on promising fields off Sabah's west coast.

Sabah accordingly presents as a picture as can be expected of a state with a new government, with an economy well behind that of peninsular Malaysia, with a racially and religiously divided population and with an unenviable position right on the fringe of the federation.

To fly south-west from Kota Kinabalu in Sabah to Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, is to enter a different political world, to leave behind the black and white of a new and successful party lording it over a demoralized opposition and to enter an arena of compromise and coalition.

Sarawak has three main parties, one mainly Malay, one mainly Chinese, and one mainly Chinese, though all with a good deal of overlapping, have joined to form a state version of the National Front formula which rules Malaysia.

The main effect of this has been to take the sharp edge off racial issues but the way

it is managed has mirrored the Malay-Melanan minority (the Muslims) a large Sarawak's affairs. The larger the then is, how long will it take the other races to count this?

On the face of it Muslims are making it easy for them. The outspoken opposition, Daruk Patioggi (a title) Tan Sri (a title) Abdul Rahman as Chief Minister from within the ranks, mostly from the Malays of the Ku region.

This is a dispute of a complex nature. Daruk Rahman, one of Malaysia's most skillful politicians, has been able to control but it has given to a state of conge about a new party formed to oppose him, the state and federal elections likely next year.

So, if the Muslims split, how can the other gain? In a phrase, they are no more themselves. There is even a word, let alone a party, for the non-Malay races, for last the Bidayans, Ibans, K and others must be mentioned though the word "Dayak" in its native sense of all native peoples may not serve.

The Chinese are divided, as elsewhere, into a dialect, and a class because. So remains unwilling but small but persistent separatist revolt, almost Chinese inspired.

Armed terrorists from Kuching and Rajang, a number more than 100. They not to draw help from countries but they down a large and exp force of soldiers and men who must count successes in one of "eliminations" at a

This little war points basic difference between Sabah and Sarawak, has few really poor and no communist movement; Sarawak has sands of Chinese without livings as farm workers and who both class and resentments.

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